Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-063 *2 April 1990*

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Caribbean Media, Churches Criticize TV Marti

FL0204142490 Bridgetown CANA in English 1728 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Report by Rickey Singh]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 31, CANA—The U.S-funded TV Marti, which began test broadcasts aimed at Cuba on March 27, has met with a critical response from Caribbean media circles.

The news and entertainment station based in Florida promotes the free flow of information, the U.S. says. The Cubans see TV Marti as electronic aggression designed to destablise a Communist government which is resisting the democratic reforms that have swept Eastern Europe.

The Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), representing the major radio and television networks of the region, Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications (CANTO) and the Caribbean Association of Media Workers (Camwork) have expressed their concerns about the legality of TV Marti and its implications for the region's broadcasting environment.

The president of the Caribbean Publishing and Broadcasting Association (CPBA) Sam Taitt said that the matter is likely to be discussed at the association's annual general meeting in Jamaica next week.

The CBU's concerns, according to secretary general Terrence Holder, have to do with the project's contravention of international broadcasting conventions, and the "harmful effect it can have on the broadcasting system in the northern region of the Caribbean."

Secretary general of CANTO Felipe Noguera told CANA that in engaging in this "illegal transborder communications traffic, the United States Government is creating a dangerous precedent."

"It is most unfortunate that a powerful nation like the U.S.A. should be so deliberately abusing its power in carrying out an electronic warfare against a small Caribbean country because of its hostility to the government of President Castro....," the Trinidad-based Nogeuro said.

Camwork, the regional journalists organisation, has called on the public affairs officer of the U.S. Embassy in Barbados to convey to the U.S. authorities its concerns over the operations of "first, Radio Marti and now TV Marti as communication weapons against a small, sovereign Caribbean nation."

In its letter to the U.S. Embassy, Camwork cited possible violations of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) conventions and regulations, and stated:

"This unprovoked act by the U.S against Cuba, could contribute to confusion in the broadcasting environment and, worst, unnecessary political tension in this region at a time a climate of peace is most desirable for better U.S.-Caribbean relations."

Designated as an activity of the United States Information Agency (USIA), TV Marti has also been sharply criticised by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) which speaks for more than 5,000 radio and 940 television stations in the U.S. The NAB, to which the CBU is affiliated, has voiced its objections to members of the U.S. Congress about the U.S. violations of the ITU's conventions and regulations with a [passage indistinct.]

The NAB has expressed fears for the "instability, interference, and confusion" it could provoke in the hemispheric broadcasting environment.

The Caribbean Conference of Churches, in a statement from its secretariat here, said that the advent of TV Marti "calls into question the existing information order as it relates to ideological differences, electronic aggression, cultural imperialism, information hostility, and the possible violation of national sovereignty."

The regional ecumenical movement takes the view that "until information ceases to be used as a weapon of foreign policy to promote and entrench practices of information hostility and cultural domination, there is in reality, no free flow of information...."

The noted West Indian novelist and broadcaster, George Lamming, has dismissed TV Marti—named after Cuba's revered national hero, Jose Marti—as "an act of unprovoked aggression, and another demonstration of the U.S. disrespect for the rule of law...."

He said that the intention is to "provoke the Cubans into making a response that would offer justification for more serious aggression on the part of the U.S.A.... There is no end to the cold war in this hemisphere...."

Jamaican educator and exponent of West Indian culture, Professor Rex Nettleford, told CANA that TV Marti was clearly a "misconceived and provocative project." It was a matter of "great distress," he added "that the American government should be pursuing this policy against Cuba because of the United States failure to understand the uniqueness of the Castro revolutionary process, or of the significance of Cuba in championing its sovereignty even when it means openly disagreeing with the Soviet Union."

Nettleford, head of the UWI's [University of the West Indies] extra-mural department, said that what may appear to the U.S. as "intransigence" on the part of the Castro government at a time of significant political developments in Eastern Europe and within the Soviet Union itself, would be seen by those who know better in this region as "admirable courage in resisting enormous external pressures in safeguarding sovereignty."

Cuba has so far jammed the TV Marti broadcasts and has threatened to retaliate with electronic countermeasures that could seriously disrupt radio broadcasts, communications, and electronic systems in almost half of neighbouring U.S.

Following its launching of Radio Marti, as a programme of "Voice of America" (VOA), the former U.S Administration of President Ronald Reagan, started plans in 1988 for TV Marti. The Bush Administration advanced the project which is to be operational with an aerostat carrying an estimated 10,000 watt transmitter and kept at an altitude of no less than 10,000 feet over the Cudjoe Key area as it beams across the Florida Straits.

The Cubans noted that President George Bush has granted U.S. 16 million dollars for 1990 and an extra U.S. 16 million for 1991 for "this anti-Cuba television project."

TV Marti is the latest flare-up in the hostile U.S.-Cuban relationship that began shortly after Fidel Castro led a revolution that toppled right-wing dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Group of Rio Communique on Panama, TV Marti

PA3103010690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2334 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Mar (DPA) - The foreign ministers of the "Group of Rio" said today in the Mexican capital that they favor a "popular consultation without foreign interference" in Panama, and they urged the Guillermo Endara government to respect the right of asylum and the immunity of diplomatic missions.

The ministers also expressed their "great concern" over the beginning of transmissions by TV Marti, the anti-Castro television channel beamed from the United States, and they rejected the "unilateral actions that endanger hemispheric relations."

These views were expressed in a communique issued at the end of a meeting of the group's foreign ministers. The meeting was attended by Domingo Cavallo of Argentina, Jose Franciso Rezek of Brazil, Julio Londono of Colombia, Fernando Solana of Mexico, Guillermo Larco of Peru, Hector Gros of Uruguay, and Reinaldo Figueredo of Venezuela.

Analyzing the Panamanian situation, the foreign ministers of the seven countries "stressed that democratic legitimacy requires a popular consultation, without foreign interference, to guarantee full respect for peoples' right to freely choose their government leaders."

They also emphasized that "the foreign troops need to confine their activities solely to their military bases, as called for in the canal treaties signed by the United States and Panama, and refrain from carrying out actions for which the Panamanians are responsible."

The ministers referred to the problems that occurred in several embassies during and after the U.S. invasion, and to the Panamanian authorities' refusal to grant safe-conducts which would have allowed former officials who had sought asylum in embassies to leave the country.

Regarding Cuba, the ministers announced their decision to continue efforts to create a favorable climate which would allow the island's participation in Latin American dialogue through the inter-American system.

Reiterating the need to safeguard sovereignty and the principle of nonintervention, the ministers "categorically" rejected "unilateral actions that endanger hemispheric relations." In this regard, they expressed "their grave concern" over the beginning of the anti-Castro TV Marti transmissions from the United States to Cuba, and they reaffirmed that "people have a right to free access to information" but "within respect for the norms of coexistence."

The ministers also expressed their support for the efforts aimed at achieving a democratic transfer of power in Nicaragua and the demobilization of the contras, and expressed their wishes for the success of the Central American summit to be held on 1 - 2 April in Nicaragua.

Contadora Ministers Announce End of Mission

PA0204030890 Paris AFP in Spanish 0216 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Apr (AFP)—The foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, who met here on the occasion of the sixth meeting of foreign ministers of the Group of Rio, issued a joint communique published here in today's newspapers, which announces the end of the mission for which the Contadora Group was created.

The foreign ministers of Colombia, Julio Londono; Mexico, Fernando Solana; and Venezuela, Reinaldo Figueredo, said that their governments will participate in the next meeting of the mechanism of San Jose on 10 April in Dublin "as cooperators with the Central American countries and not as the Contadora Group."

The communique of 1 April defined more precisely the new position of the three governments, which had been somewhat ambiguous in the communique issued by the same governments on 29 March.

The foreign ministers of the so-called group of three had not explained the meaning of a phrase which said that the Contadora Group "had fulfilled the task for which it had been created," because the peace efforts in Central America had had a "fruitful result."

In their new communique, the foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela "agreed to concentrate" their efforts to assist Central America in education (emphasizing the granting of scholarships), agriculture-livestock, energy, and health cooperation.

The meeting of the group of three also reached an agreement to "conduct a joint tour of the Caribbean on a ship that will carry samples of commercial products, and also artistic and cultural expressions of the three countries, during the last three months of the year."

The communique notes that the countries have agreed to establish a line of direct telephone communications between the foreign ministries of the three countries to facilitate contacts." [no opening quotation marks as received]

The Contadora Group, named after a Panamanian island where the group first met and which initially included Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela, was created on 9 January 1983. It quickly received the support of the international community.

The Contadora Group acted two years later in coordination with the so-called Support Group—Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Uruguay—to launch an important diplomatic effort that failed, in view of the differences among Central Americans.

After June 1986, when the deadline established by Contadora for the Central American countries to sign a peace agreement expired, the peaceful alternative of Esquipulas emerged and the group gradually lost its position as interlocutor of the region.

Cuba

Continuing Reaction to TV Marti Broadcasting

Havana Reports 30 Mar Broadcast

FL3003125190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The national radioelectric spectrum exploration and monitoring system detected the announcement made by the worm radio today at 0137 saying that the identification signal of the anti-Cuban television would go on the air at that time. The usual lack of seriousness and naive disinformation goal continued to prevail. It was not until 0331 that the invader signal began transmitting on channel 13's frequency.

The directional point immediately carried out the verification procedures and activated the interference systems created to preserve the national sovereignty. The Yankee transmission was virtually blocked out in the entire coverage area three minutes later.

Today at dawn, the broadcasts were transmitted from the platform located in Cudjoe Key's military base and also from the Spacenet and Intelsat satellite systems. The enemy transmissions ended at 0645. No significant radioelectric irregularities were observed in the rest of Cuban territory.

The level of preparedness, high morale, and cohesion of the combatants, technicians, and engineers involved in this battle was confirmed once again.

'Minimum' Spent To Block Signal

FL3003191090 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Interview with Engineer Carlos Martinez Albuernes, director of radioelectrical frequencies of the Communications Ministry, by Alberto Paneque; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] Since the Reagan administration made the announcement on the television aggression against our country, our ministry set out to design a device to neutralize this aggression. Therefore, we created a number of work groups. Some comrades specialized in propagation, others in equipment, and in antennas. The time came when we were able to test our device. This has entailed a great effort by our comrades.

[Paneque] Engineer Carlos Martinez. The United States is going to invest no less than $32 million this year to send us the signal. Do you think Cuba's expenses are proportional to this Yankee investment?

[Martinez] Our expenses are ridiculous compared to the millions of dollars used for this project and paid by U.S. taxpayers. I would say that $1.00 is equivalent to a lot less than a hundredth of a Cuban centavo. The greatest expense we have had is the one regarding the technical personnel we have used inasmuch as the material resources such as components and metals we have obtained to build the antennas are from our country. A minimum of convertible currency has been used.

[Paneque] I understand that a U.S. reporter asked you if the fact that Cuba had blocked this enemy signal, this Yankee signal, meant a total victory for Cuba. What can you say about it?

[Martinez] In the conversation we had with this gentleman we tried to be very sensible, very realistic. He was the one to make the assessment that this was a blow to the United States because the signal was neutralized. We explained that we are not assuming a triumphalist stand. We are waiting for any other type of measure to be taken, to be implemented. We are convinced we can substantially counteract it.

Technicians on Low Cost of Jamming

PA3103033090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0023 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Havana, 30 Mar (EFE)—Several technicians who participated in jamming the U.S.-sponsored TV Marti, which began this week, have said that the cost of the action was low.

In a report published today by the official newspaper TRABAJADORES, three Cuban telecommunications engineers, Socrates Rojas, Elio Borges, and Julio Ortega, described the results of the jamming as effective.

We have found a way to interfere with these broadcasts at a low cost and with positive results, Rojas said. He added: For a long time, we have been working on the design and organization of a system to counteract the enemy station.

In addition, Borges and Ortega said they are prepared to jam TV Marti's signal on every channel, regardless of the frequency used.

We have designed the system to be versatile and capable of rendering immediate results. The images broadcast have hardly enough time to enter the receivers. The jamming leaves only a test pattern, they said.

The test broadcasts of the TV Marti project, for which more than $7 million have been allocated, began on 27 February. The Cuban technicians have been jamming the broadcasts, which last three hours every day, ever since.

The National Information Agency [AIN] today released an official note saying that the Cuban monitoring and tracking services at 0137 (0637 GMT) intercepted a radio message announcing the start of the broadcasts. AIN thinks, however, that the usual lack of seriousness and naive intent to distort information prevailed again because the signal was received through channel 13 at 0031 (0831 GMT).

According to AIN, three minutes after the jamming system was turned on, the signal was interfered with in virtually every range. No significant radioelectric anomalies were detected in the rest of the territory.

The newspaper GRANMA, mouthpiece of the Cuban Communists, today devoted nearly the entire back page to criticisms against TV Marti expressed by governments and people of Latin America, the Soviet Union, the PRC, DPRK, Mexico, and France, among other countries.

More Reaction Reported by Havana

FL3003162490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Radio and Television International Organization in Prague has reiterated its condemnation to the beginning of the U.S.-sponsored anti-Cuban transmissions.

For his part, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Georgiev Dimitrov told PRENSA LATINA that those transmissions constitute an act of provocation. The Cuban response is fair, added Dimitrov.

In Pyongyang, the DPRK Foreign Ministry asserted that the tele-aggression is another link in the U.S. chain of hostile actions against Cuba. Likewise, the RENMIN RIBAO newspaper, official mouthpiece of the PRC Communist Party, strongly condemned the anti-Cuban television and characterized it as gross intervention that violates UN stipulations and treaties.

Yugoslavian newspaper BORBA and French newspaper L'HUMANITE also criticized it as well as the International Students' Union based in Prague.

UN Envoy Gives News Conference

FL3003212590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, described the Yankee television hostilities as a fiasco and added that this act is a technological repeat of the Bay of Pigs disaster. The Cuban vice foreign minister stated that on the morning of 27 March our technicians took 10 minutes to jam the image. On the second day of the attack they took eight minutes, on the third day four minutes, and in the early morning hours today only three minutes.

At a news conference Alarcon denounced the operation of the enemy television station and said that the note issued by Washington saying the United States informed the International Telecommunications Union about the technical details for the use of Cuban Channel 13 on 27 March seems like a joke. The Cuban diplomat said that for months our country had protested to that organization, which asked Washington for an explanation, and it was precisely the very day of the tests that the United States answered.

Further on News Conference

FL3103004990 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0003 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, today refuted the attempts by the U.S. diplomatic mission to justify the television broadcasts against Cuba which started four days ago. Alarcon de Quesada held a news conference to respond directly to a note circulated by the U.S. mission in which it tried to defend the alleged legality of its anti-Cuban television station.

Alarcon, who is also the Cuban first vice minister of foreign relations, described the U.S. arguments as fallacious since—he said—these broadcasts not only violate international regulations, but use a channel that belongs to Cuba. The U.S. note itself acknowledges using for the test transmissions channel 13, which is used by the Cuban station Tele Rebelde, thus admitting its own illegality, the diplomat explained.

Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, reiterated that the international legislation covering radio broadcasts establishes that the power of transmissions should be limited to covering a country's national territory with a high-quality image.

No Broadcasts Detected 31 Mar

FL3103123090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1205 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The Spacenet II and Intelsat satellite systems, which link the enemy television studios in Washington with the broadcast platform on board the aerostat tethered at Cudjoe Key, began operating at 0345 today. No broadcasts to Cuba were detected this morning from this location. The radioelectric spectrum remained clear throughout the entire national territory. Precautions are begin taken in regard to the normal programming changes that occur in television on the weekends [Havana Tele Rebelde Network does not begin broadcasting today until 1400 GMT], as well as the change to summer time.

The radio monitoring and tele-detection systems are operating normally and each of the objectives' safety devices maintains a high combative disposition. Should anything new arise, the command center will inform the population.

UN Workshop Condemns Project

FL3103112590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 Mar 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] The UN workshop on space communications for development has concluded here in Havana. The participants issued a communique rejecting the use of a television channel, originating from the United States, against our country. This is against all the technical, legal, and beneficial aspects of telecommunications, as

well as its essence as an instrument of cooperation and relations between the peoples, the communique adds.

Lezcano at Anti-TV Marti Rally

FL3103144390 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] [Announcer] We take advantage of every moment to express our repudiation and condemnation of any maneuver the imperialists apply. This was demonstrated by the students of the Jose Antonio Echeverria Polytechnical Institute in support of the party and Fidel. [video shows students at mass rally]

[Begin recording] [Jorge Lezcano, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana City Province, identified by caption] The technological war has begun. They have attacked us and we have been defeating them in every battle. No one knows what will happen next; it depends on them. We must prepare ourselves, just like our people are prepared, for an increase in those hostilities, for an increase in the measures they may apply against Cuba. In preparation for that moment, we must be able to convert the electronic and television Giron—and we will, as we have demonstrated—into a military Giron. This battle is being waged here in our capital and they will also confront the military Giron of 1990 here. [end recording]

Havana Reports Jamming 1 Apr

PA0104145090 Havana International Service in Spanish 1401 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] At daybreak today, Cuban automated detection and interference systems once again totally blocked the U.S.-launched television broadcasts to the island.

According to a National Information Agency report, the Intelsat and Spacenet II satellites, linking the studios of the anti-Cuban station in Washington with the broadcast platform on board the aerostat at the Cudjoe Key military base, began operating at 0328 Cuban summer time. The report adds that naval and aerial techniques were employed to improve the Cuban land circuits used to reject the tele-aggression.

AIN Says Entire Spectrum Jammed

PA0104234490 Paris AFP in Spanish 2220 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Havana, 1 Apr (AFP)—TV Marti, the U.S. network in Spanish that is beamed to Cuba, began to transmit between 0318 and 0645 on 1 April, but the Cuban authorities again managed to jam it, "serverely distorting the enemy signal over virtually its entire coverage area," according to the official National Information Agency (AIN).

That terminology appears to indicate that the task of interference was less effective than during the four previous nights, especially considering "that aerial and naval" techniques were used, according to AIN. [sentence as received]

On the morning of 1 April it was confirmed that there was slight aerial movement over Havana.

TV Marti, which transmits from an aerostat over the gulf of Florida, received a subsidy of $7.5 million from the U.S. Congress for a three-month test period.

Malmierca Letter to Rio Group

FL0204121490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has sent a letter of acknowledgement to the Latin American foreign ministers who make up the Rio Group for the rejection they expressed of the U.S. decision to begin television broadcasts against our country. The last meeting of the group, which is comprised of Mexico, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Uruguay, and Peru was held 29-30 March in Mexico City.

During the meeting, the foreign ministers agreed to reject the Yankee television hostilities against Cuba, which reaffirms this group's important role in the necessary struggle for the independence, freedom, and development the peoples of our America demand, Malmierca's letter states. Cuba's letter of acknowledgement to the Rio Group foreign ministers extends to their respective governments for their conduct.

Havana Reports 2 Apr Jamming

FL0204124690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] At 0345 hours [0745 GMT] the test pattern of the U.S. Information Service on the Intelsat and Spacenet II satellite systems involved in the hostilities against Cuba was replaced by the notice of the start of the broadcasts. Immediately the satellite signal was injected into the transmitters on board the aerostat raised on the Cudjoe Key military base in Florida, from which it was transmitted to Cuba.

At 0347 hours the jamming circuits began operation; they caused severe degradation of the enemy signal over the entire coverage area. Points in Havana Province in which occasional infiltrations were observed were sealed off through the use of aerial assets. A naval unit operated in areas off the coast north of Havana. The programming was processed by the analysis agency, the directional point. During the morning, high coefficients of operational functioning and efficiency were achieved. The enemy transmissions ended at 0645 hours.

Castro Interview With Brazilian TV During Visit

PA0104004690 Havana Cubavision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Mar 90

["Excerpts" of interviews with President Fidel Castro given to O Globo television on 14 March, to Manchete television on 15 March, and to the Brazilian Television System on 16 March in Brasilia, and "excerpts" of Castro news conference on 16 March in Brasilia; questions by unidentified reporters in Portuguese, fading into Spanish translation—recorded]

[Text] [Caption on screen reads: "Taken from O Globo interview on 14 March"]

[Reporter] President Fidel Castro, judging from all that is taking place in East Europe and the USSR, and most recently in Lithuania, do you think communism has any future?

[Castro] It would not be right to talk about communism, as we have always considered communism as a final stage. It would be better to speak about socialism. I am deeply convinced and I feel sure that—based on the 30 years of work in our country and what has been achieved in our country—for Cuba there is no better solution or better path than the path we have followed; that is, the path of socialism. Each country, based on its own experience, has to decide if socialism is the system of the future for mankind.

[Reporter] Mr. President, I would like for you to talk a little about the problem of the political dissidents in Cuba. How much dissidence is accepted, and how much of a threat is it considered to the state? Do you think there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction among the people in view of the harsh economic situation resulting from foreign pressures.

[Castro] There has been dissidence since the victory of the revolution. The first ones were Batista and his followers. All of those people affected by the revolutionary laws, the agricultural laws, the urban laws, and the economic and social measures that were taken in the country were also dissidents. These laws led not only to dissidence, but also to armed aggressions [words indistinct] in 1961 with the mercenary invasion. Those people were imprisoned.

There were many counterrevolutionaries in the first two years of the revolution. There were up to 300 counterrevolutionary organizations supported by the United States. They thought the revolution would not last, that it would be defeated at any moment. That process has been maintained, and we always consider it to be the struggle between the revolutionary forces and the forces that do not approve of the revolution.

Many left for Miami and they operate from there. The United States is working hard to divide the people, trying to create schisms in the unity of our people. However, they have achieved this. There are some dissidents, but actually they are an insignificant minority. This is very evident to visitors in our country. This minority is being encouraged from abroad. This is a continuation of the old struggle between the revolutionaries and the counterrevolutionaries that has been going on for over 30 years.

This is no threat at all for the country. I can assure you of that. Anyone who visits our country understands this very well when he sees the strength of the revolution and the indestructible unity of the people.

[Reporter] In other fields, where, today, do you see the points of mutual interest between our two countries?

[Castro] I believe there are many fields of interest to Cuba in Brazil. There are some fields in Cuba that are of interest to Brazil. We have promoted much research in all fields; for example, in the fields of medicine, biotechnology, chemistry, agriculture, and, in general, in the materials field and in chemical reactive agents. We have tens of thousands of scientists working in our country, and their work can be of use to Brazil. In turn, Brazil is undergoing significant development in many fields that can be of much use to us.

First of all, I would mention an alcohol refinery. We might need an alcohol refinery, and, in fact, we are developing them for other purposes and not for using it as fuel. Cuba does not have the vast territory that Brazil has. While Brazil can devote 100,000 sq km or 200,000 sq km to producing sugar and tens of millions of tons of fuel, we have a very limited territory. We have to devote it to crops that yield higher profits per hectare. We do not have excess land. Therefore, we are interested in that aspect of technology and many others.

[Reporter] Mr. President, let us talk about another subject. I would like to know how you feel about this subject. Brazil and Cuba have been the victims of the manipulation of the international sugar market by the rich, industrialized countries. Sometimes these countries pit Brazil against Cuba, and sometimes they pit Cuba against Brazil. Why do Brazil and Cuba not form an alliance to counter these efforts?

We would be willing to do that. We would really welcome it. We must not be competing countries but.... [changes thought] There is a sugar market in the world, not just in the socialist camp, that will continue needing sugar. China is a huge market. The world's population is growing at a pace of over 100 million inhabitants per year. In this field, I think we can.... [changes thought] Brazil and Cuba are the two largest producers. Cuba is the largest exporter because its population is much smaller than Brazil's. Brazil has to supply sugar to a population 14 times larger than Cuba's. We would be glad to work in cooperation with Brazil in this field.

[Caption on screen reads: "Taken from the Manchete Television Network interview on 15 March]

[Reporter] Fidel Castro will grant us an interview. This is the first question: Commander, some Soviet newspapers

criticized the Cuban state and its regime. Are you disappointed with what is happening in the Soviet Union, for example?

[Castro] This is not an easy question to answer. I agree with the need to perfect aspects of socialism. I am aware that historical mistakes were made. Sometimes I have asked myself if these mistakes could have been prevented. I do know different sorts of mistakes have been made. I cannot disagree with the idea that those mistakes have to be corrected. We are aware of our own mistakes, which were not the same, as they were very different, within another historical context and had other characteristics. Let us say we made tropical mistakes. When we became aware of those errors, we said we must overcome them.

In this respect, we cannot disagree with any effort to perfect socialism. This is not an easy task. It has become a political and historic development. I cannot feel happy with the way efforts to improve socialism have evolved. I do not have any doubts regarding Gorbachev's intentions and his sincere wishes to perfect socialism in the Soviet Union. But, I am not sure whether Gorbachev imagined how developments would evolve in other socialist countries. I cannot feel satisfied with the evolution of developments in the rest of the socialist countries.

To be sure, the situation is not the same in each of those countries. However, there is an element there, which is not the march toward an improved socialism but toward an inefficient capitalism. I hear that there is intense work in Poland, and not just by the country's leadership or government but by the Western allies with their cooperation and experience. They are moving at an accelerated pace. They are striving to turn Poland into a capitalist country.

[Reporter] You do not agree with that?

[Castro] I cannot agree with that. The most I can say is that I respect what they are doing. During Gorbachev's recent visit to our country in April, we talked at the National Assembly. I talked of the right of any socialist country to build socialism if it so wished, and that this must be respected, just as the right of every capitalist nation to build socialism must be respected. Allow me a few seconds. This same situation is repeated in Czechoslovakia, is repeated in Hungary, and is repeated in Bulgaria. Defining the situation in Romania is harder, that is, in regard to which direction it is headed, to what extent state enterprises will be privatized, and to what extent capitalist development will be promoted. That remains to be defined.

The situation in the GDR is different. The discussion there is no longer about socialism or capitalism but about the reunification of the two countries. However, these countries adopted a highly opportunistic international policy. They even joined the United States against Cuba in Geneva, as if they were desperate to do a favor to Yankee imperialism to obtain aid, credit, understanding, etcetera. They committed an act of highest disloyalty.

At this time, when the United States is threatening our country with all sorts of aggressions, they have climbed on the bandwagon of imperialism. This does not please any Cubans or any revolutionaries.

[Reporter] How do you see Cuban-Brazilian relations after the installation of a Brazilian president who was elected through a direct vote and thinks very differently from you? For example, he defends free enterprise and what is happening in East Europe.

[Castro] Well, why should a different electoral system be a cause of differences? If we trade with Japan, which has an emperor; with Spain, which has a king; with China, which has another system; with Vietnam, which has its own system, and with nearly all European countries, why should a different form of electing a government be a reason for having differences? Previously you elected the president in another way. Tancredo Neves and Sarney were not elected by direct votes, but through the votes cast at the Assembly. This could not be an obstacle. The Sandinists rose to power through a revolution. That could not be an obstacle.

We have not maintained relations with those who do not want to maintain relations with us. However, in today's world, one cannot take into consideration different economic systems, much less different electoral methods, when considering relations. Brazil is a capitalist country and Cuba is a socialist country. However, ever since we established diplomatic relations, we have been developing better economic relations, as well as relations in other fields.

The difference of systems can not stand as an obstacle to the development of those relations, and much less for the opinions concerning any problem. We have better relations with East Europe than Brazil does. We have a right to have more information about all that, and we have a right to our opinions. I already explained the reasons.

It is not that I am opposed to the improvement of socialism, but I am opposed to the dismantling of socialism and the construction of capitalism. However, I respect any other country's right to do this. I do not respect others who sell their souls to the devil, because that is another thing. I do not respect anyone who sells himself to the United States, or anyone who joins the imperialists against a country such as Cuba in exchange for a loan or anything else. Nonetheless, I respect all of their rights, and if they want to be capitalists, we respect their rights. If they want to trade with us as capitalists, we respect them.

[Caption on screen reads: "Taken from the interview to the Brazilian Television System in Brasilia on 16 March"]

[Reporter] Mr. President: How can one handle all the challenges that there must be? Elections were held. There was a Brazilian political trend that defended capitalism and a trend that defended opening the economy. The trend with the ideas closer to socialism won the elections. What does this victory in Brazil represent?

[Castro] For me, it would be very difficult to make an analysis of politics here in Brazil, because I would be taking stands in the face of government policy. I do not believe this is right. I can speak in general terms and say this is a neo-liberal trend policy. It is a strong trend that is expressed in various ways in various governments. We could say this policy is somewhat in fashion. The Mexicans have been developing a somewhat similar policy. Each one carries out the policy in a different manner.

In other countries where there have been new governments in recent years, they have been considering the possibility of that line as a solution to their problems. Each one includes the peculiar characteristics of each one of those governments. A neoliberal policy was also implemented in Chile, but the political conditions in Brazil were very different from the ones there are in other countries as of the democratic opening. Chile, for example, is a country that displays certain apparent results. For example, the indexes of the Chilean economy give us an idea that the policy has been successful. However, that policy was based on extreme hardships. Very drastic reductions in consumption were imposed on the people, and this led to a repressive policy that took thousands of lives.

The national economy ran into debt and part of it has been capitalized. They developed new resources such as fisheries and fruit production, which became an important economic item. You can observe, for example, that in Chile's secondary market, a debt dollar has a value of 58 cents. Also, if you study the situation in other Latin American countries, you will observe that those countries which in one way or another tried to apply this economic policy after they entered the democratic opening have not been able to resolve their problems. The situation is serious. You can see that Argentina's debt dollar costs 13 cents in the secondary market. It is a very serious situation. Inflation is very high, over 3,000 percent. These are exorbitant figures that make the economy almost unmanageable.

I know there is a basic contradiction. Countries where democratic openings are occurring have also accumulated what you would call a big social debt. Wherever a big social debt and inflation have accumulated, restrictive measures are more difficult to implement and carry a very high political cost. This is so because people, in general, are at the minimum threshold of what they can stand from a social point of view. Yes?

[Reporter] Brazilian voters resolved to change in this sense, and they chose President Collor's ideas. However, Brazilian leftist sectors believe that your visit represents a sort of capitulation or surrender of at least part of his ideas. What do you believe?

[Castro] I cannot agree with this point of view, even though I understand that some may imagine something like this. I have been visiting and participating in different governments' inauguration ceremonies. One of the visits was to Ecuador, where a conservative government lost the elections and a leftist government won. After that there was Mexico, where one non-conservative government, the party in power, continued in power but was confronted by a leftist opposition. I visited this country. I also attended the Venezuelan inaugural cremony where there was no change of party. Independent of electoral results, Brazil invited our country to send a high-level delegation to its inaugural ceremony, and we have done so, independently of ideological differences.

There are matters that are very important, and, in general, our relations with Latin America are very important. It would be absurd for us to isolate ourselves from Latin America because of ideological positions, especially when we take into account that we have many problems in common.

[Reporter] Cuba has resolved problems such as education, hunger, and health. Do you now see that Cuban youth want more freedom, political freedoms, and so forth?

[Castro] Are you saying that Cuban youth are not in accord with the revolution? Where does this theory come from? They are the freest youth in the world. They participate in the state and in politics, and no youth in the world do this. Before coming here, I met by chance with university students in Havana. There were 40,000 university students present. They came to visit me in an enormous demonstration to report the holding of their next congress, to invite me to it, and to give me the corresponding credentials. The support given to the revolution by our youth is enormous. This does not only include university youth, but also pre-university and mid-level students. The Cuban revolution has been developed, partially, with the work done by our students.

It is the work of our young people. It is the offspring of our young people. Young people love and defend it. This does not happen anywhere else. Let us speak the truth. Everywhere in the world you find students organizing demonstrations and protests because they do not agree with the situation. In Cuba, on the contrary, you find young people and students mobilized in support of the revolution. Young people in Cuba are also armed and organized in combat units. Students are one of the most solid forces the revolution has. Therefore, where can the view, that our young people are unhappy with the socialist system and the revolution, come from?

[Reporter] You are one of the greatest myths of this century. Everywhere you go you inspire admiration or hatred. The stability of the Cuban system depends on you, but you are not eternal. What is Cuba's future?

[Castro] We say that Cuba's future is an eternal umbrella. An umbrella symbolizes the protest of Antonio Maceo, one of the top leaders in our war of independence. After the first war that lasted 10 years, when the fatigued leaders of that revolutionary movement made peace with Spain without independence, Maceo did not accept it. He continued fighting. The future of our

country is the future of an independent and proud country that will not accept U.S. impositions, a country that will build sustained social development, and a country that will be capable of facing any kind of difficulties that may arise.

Whether or not I am present is irrelevant. Hundreds of thousands of young people have come out of our universities. Millions of young people have acquired experience in the past 30 years. Many new cadres have been created. In our country, I do more preaching than anyone on the fact that political processes do not and should not depend on men. I am totally at ease because we have built a lasting work. In addition, I am not part of a one-person government. There is no presidential regime in our country. The presidency is collective in our country. There is a Council of State. We have a party in our country with its Central Committee, its Politburo. We have a collective leadership.

We work collectively in making all the fundamental decisions in the revolutionary process. I may be absent for one year, and all would remain the same or be better. I may disappear forever, and all will remain the same. I hope that it may even be better. That is how I see it. As for the myth, if I am a myth it is not my fault, it is the Yankees' fault who turned me into a myth. One of the things they set out to do was to destroy the revolution and destroy me. They were not able to destroy the revolution or destroy me. And they really suffer when they see me having so much energy and health.

[Caption on screen reads: "From the news conference held in Brasilia on 16 March]

[Reporter] Fidel, how do you regard the Brazilian elections? How do you view Brazil's democratic process?

[Castro] I will not say this here because I have always said it, that in our country, our people [words indistinct] gladly welcomed Brazil's democratic opening. That was something we always wished and longed for, and we welcomed it with great joy, as we did the democratic process in Argentina and as we did the opening process that is under way in Chile and in Uruguay. Everybody knows the ties of friendship and solidarity with those countries, and so this was welcomed with great joy. I see the process is moving along. Perhaps things are not moving along in the direction many citizens wish, or perhaps they are. At any rate, I think the democratic process in Brazil is moving along.

I think all these elections are steps forward. I think that they can contribute to a consolidation of the democratic process. I really regard them as positive. I am worried, though, about the terrible social and economic conditions under which the processes of democratic opening are taking place. I see that they really need solid foundations. The situation is terrible from a social standpoint, a standpoint which you Brazilians term the social debt. That debt is huge.

The social situation has reached the minimum tolerable level that can be accepted by Latin American societies and the tendency is not towards getting better, but to get worse. I do not believe this ensures stabilization and stability for the Latin American political processes. This tendency may bring about serious situations in one sense or the other. I mean, I see these processes as good and we see them with happiness. These processes have brought about the opening of relations with Cuba. The previous governments, the previous processes, broke with Cuba and held a marked hostility toward Cuba. The Latin American democratic processes have been opening relations, communications, and trade between Cuba and the Latin American countries. Thus today, we have relations with the great majority of Latin American countries, which at one time had been severed. With the exception of Mexico, all countries broke relations with Cuba. Our own country was blocked by the United States and was isolated from Latin America as a result of U.S. pressures. [Cuba] has greatly benefited from these democratic processes. I see that these democratic processes continue, and we look upon this with happiness. I must say sincerely, however, that we are worried about these countries' terrible ecocomic and social situations, which conspire against the advances of these processes. No one knows where this may lead. This could even mean social outbreaks; who knows what dangers lie ahead. This is the way I see it and how I reply on our observations of the process in Brazil and Latin America.

[Moderator] Now it is the turn of (Jose Gomez) of the Spanish newspaper EL PAIS.

[Castro] Now he is going to protest what I said about the King. [crowd laughs] Let us see what (Jose Gomez) says.

[(Gomez)] Can you hear me? Commander, yesterday, after meeting with you, Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez spoke with Spanish journalists and said: I am interested in Cuba's strategic design for the year 2000, I hope it will not be like Numancia's [ancient Celtic city]. I need not explain what Numantia was to a bright student of Belen School, like yourself. We could, more or less, say that Numancia is what you often repeat in your speeches: "Socialism or death."

[Castro] Yes, of course.

[(Gomez)] This also reminds me that recently Octavio Paz [Mexican author] wrote an article saying that the Cuban regime runs the risk of ending like Ceausescu, who also had 95 percent of the votes.

[Castro] How was it proven that he had 95 percent of the votes?

[(Gomez)] I would ask you, commander...

[Castro, interrupting] Was there some sort of direct election in Romania, some sort of U.S.-type election? Oh, yes, you have a right to ask, but I also have—we both have.

[(Gomez)] I would ask you commander [chuckles] [applause] for your comments...

[Castro, interrupting] I will reply to your question with pleasure. How many people.... [changes thought] You are Spanish?

[(Gomez)] Yes.

[Castro] From where?

[(Gomez)] Asturias.

[Castro] Asturias. The Asturians are very brave; they have waged wars throughout history. How many people were killed in Zaragoza when Napoleon invaded?

[(Gomez)] Plenty.

[Castro] How many people were killed in Madrid? How many people were killed in the Battle of Bailen? [Jaen Province, Spain, 1808] How many people were killed when Spain was invaded? Spain did not want King Don Pepe. What was he called, King Bottle? I cannot remember.

[(Gomez)] Pepe Botellas.

[Castro] Pepe Botellas or some name like that. Spain did not say Fatherland or death; or are you going to say that you defended yourselves from Napoleon's invasion? [applause] You forgot.... [changes thought] Yes, you remembered Mainz [Maguncia, German city in Hessen] and Numancia. So what if it happens like in Mainz and Numancia—we fight, oh, yes. When the Nazis invaded the Soviets, what did they say? Did they remember Mainz and Numancia and become discouraged? Did they resist?

Did they not pay the price for their independence? It was a terrible disgrace, but they paid the price. When the Americans were attacked at Pearl Harbor, what did they say? Did they take a Christian stand? Did they turn the other cheek when they were slapped? Which country in the world would have done that? And, finally, if we analyze all of the great historic events, we will see that the countries involved defended their honor, independence, and sovereignty amid the most difficult conditions. Spain, a country of peasants, said no to Napoleon's invaders. The Vietnamese also said no. The United States attacked them with thousands of planes, hundreds of thousands of soldiers, and the most sophisticated weapons. Yet the Vietnamese said: No, we will not accept this situation. And they fought. Why is it now necessary to speak a philosophy about Cuba not resisting and fighting? We want to survive. In addition, we are sure we will survive an aggression against our country, if it happens. What really happens is that Felipe is in touch with the Yankees. He does not work for them, far from it, I must say. Quite the opposite, he sincerely cares for our country and is worried about the possibility that Cuba could be attacked. Felipe knows we will resist. He told me so. He knows the price the United States would have to pay for an attack against Cuba would be tremendous. He does not wish many Cubans to die. I appreciate this concern, which I consider sincere. Yet, his and our points of view are different from each other. We are not from Numancia or Mainz. We do not favor a holocaust. The Yankees are not equipped to wipe out the Cuban people. They are not. [applause]

I will tell you the truth. Men have the right to choose, correct? Are we free or not? If we have to choose between freedom and slavery, or better, between slavery and death, we would rather choose death. If we have to choose between independence and submission, we will choose independence regardless of the price. So this is the situation. Now we have two great slogans. I hope we can attribute one to Numancia and the other to Mainz. They are: Socialism or death! and Homeland or death! This means that if we are forced to live like Yankees, we would rather die. How many men in the history of mankind have not done this? Millions of men, of all nations, all worthy men on earth have done this.

Should we act otherwise, we would not be men. We would put our survival instincts above the most sacred values. We cannot resign our most sacred values. Because of this, we would rather die. This is the meaning of our slogan.

However, we have organized and prepared ourselves. We do not want them to invade us. But if the Yankees think that Cuba hesitates, the danger would multiply, because the persecution instinct is unleashed in them, just like in dogs, sharks, lions, and other animals. If they detect hesitation and sense weakness, the danger for us increases. If there is anything that can check a threat of aggression against this country, it is that they think the price is too great. If there is anything that can check them, it is this conviction. They applaud their Pyrric and ridiculous victories. They invaded Grenada, a country of 400 sq km and little more than 100,000 inhabitants. They sent their airborne divisions and Navy and then said: What a great victory we have achieved! It is something similar to putting a five-year-old child against a world champion and the champion saying his was a great victory. And this is what they did in Grenada and Panama. But when the bodies begin to be returned in caskets, the applause will end and the worry will begin. We must make sure that there will be a good number of bodies of invaders in caskets so there cannot be any applause.

What happened in Vietnam, where they sustained 40,000 fatalities? They started to think about peace after they sustained all those casuaties. They killed millions of Vietnamese, but the Vietnamese preserved their independence and freedom. We have organized our people to fight even if the entire country is occupied. This would not make things at all easy and would be extremely costly for them. We would guarantee all of the necessary raw material so, instead of applause, they would get criticism. This is our policy and none other. History justifies it. I appreciate Felipe's concern very much. Felipe is a well-informed man, who is very much concerned about the possibility that the empire, in its arrogance and haughtiness, could perpetrate a sudden attack against Cuba and that, although we resist heroically, this could

cost too high a price. But we know, not only that we will resist, but that we will win. Therefore, there will be no Mainz or Numancia. We will survive. [Applause]

[Reporter] Commander Castro, Elita Marati, who manages Brazil's foreign policy, thinks that Cuba, in a short time, will again be received as member of the OAS. Do you think that this return would be delayed because of the United States' political weight and the ideological disagreements between Cuba and the United States?

[Castro] The Yankees are not too crazy about our returning to the OAS. We were kicked out of the OAS, we were expelled. Later, a group of countries invited us to rejoin the organization.

We certainly know about the history of the OAS, which has been a sad one. The United States has used it as an instrument of its interventions.

In the past, the United States intervened in a country and then went to the OAS to bless the intervention. This happened, for example, in Santo Domingo. In 1967, 30,000 or 40,000 troops were sent in and then they summoned the OAS to bless the intervention.

Now, the United States has been intervening in countries by itself, not waiting for the OAS to justify the intervention. There have been some changes. There is much more independence in the countries of Latin America and I believe part of the credit belongs to the Cuban revolution. It was a cause of concern for the empire, which led to the creation of the Alliance for Progress and many other things.

Throughout these years, our countries have increasingly expressed themselves with greater independence. They now have their own criteria. Serious changes have taken place. These changes have led to the resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba. These changes have even led to the belief that Cuba should return to the OAS.

Even though we have no sympathy for the OAS, we have said that if Latin American countries think it is appropriate and useful for Cuba to return to the OAS, we will be willing to return. That has been our position and we have said so in the past. If they believe this is the appropriate thing to do, we would be willing to return to the OAS. However, the Yankees are furious. They have said they cannot allow Cuba to return to the OAS.

At any rate, the OAS does not represent a ton of wheat for us or a lathe to manufacture a spare part for us. They do not solve our economic problems. Our reaction is linked to the solidarity of Latin America. We should join our forces in the way they believe is most appropriate. However, the OAS is not essential for us.

Today, however, I met with OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares and I told him: Listen, take care of our seat. Please take care of our seat. Please have it ready for us so that when the time comes for us to rejoin, we can. We have told him to take care of our seat. I do not know if the Yankees will place a bomb under the seat or make the Cuban seat at the OAS disappear. The yankees do not want us to rejoin. They are the obstacle for us to rejoin. They are the only obstacle for Cuba to rejoin the OAS, which is the desire of most Latin American countries.

[Reporter] Following the results of the Nicaraguan elections, how do you envision the future of the social revolution in Latin America?

[Castro] The social revolution in Latin America...I believe that regardless of what happened in Nicaragua, revolutionary people are always seeking change. Revolutionary people want changes to come quickly and [words indistinct].

We have said many times that the number one problem in Latin America is not the construction of socialism. The number one problem in Latin America is the independence and sovereignty of the Latin American countries. The number one problem is the solution of their great economic and social problems, the solution of the foreign debt problem, the solution of the unfair trade relations, the need for the establishment of a new international economic order approved by the United Nations, and the integration of Latin American countries—without it we have no future. The Latin American countries have all of these problems, whether they are capitalist or socialist countries. Of course, if a country has a capitalist system, the masses suffer more. If the country has a socialist system, like Cuba, we distribute our suffering in the fairest way possible. In addition, we have a phenomenon that the Brazilians call social debt. I learned that word here. It reflects the economic and social catastrophe in our countries, such as problems of malnutrition in the vast majority of the population. About 700,000 children die each year and they could have been saved. There are millions of illiterate people. There are tens of millions of people and there is a high percentage of people who do not have jobs in Latin America.

Look at the situation of women and children. Every time a restrictive policy crops up as a result of all of these difficulties, it immediately affects the social situation, education, and health.

If a country is socialist, it can better share what it has, but it is terribly burdened by all of the problems that I have outlined, by economic crises, and by debt.

It wants to do things and cannot. In addition, it is boycotted. It faces a dirty war, and all those kinds of problems—but it does not have the economic resources, no matter how much it wants to do, and problems tend to worsen. It is harassed by the United States and ally countries. I (?stated) this in 1985 and I still believe it. The first thing right now, in order of priorities, is our countries' independence and the solution of these problems. Of course, we do not claim to establish the guidelines and, as long as each of our countries is independent, each country is free to decide what must be done. I am not against social changes or the construction of socialism in other countries. No, I was stating—within an

order of priorities—what I thought was the first thing right now. That is the viewpoint we have had and still have.

Socialism will come in one way or another, sooner or later. I see no future in capitalism. I sincerely believe that the future lies in socialism and [laughs] this is how I see the future of socialism in the world and many other parts. A Latin American leader told me: This is like a pendulum. It is a very good example. One minute it goes this way and the other that way, but it always returns—and the ideas will return, but more perfect and developed. The experience acquired on the construction of socialism will be enhanced.

We struggled to perfect our methods; we struggled to perfect our socialism. We are aware that we have yet to achieve many things, but we are satisfied with the rectifications that we have been making in many sectors. Someone was a prophet on this: Che. [applause] When he analyzed this, he saw the mistakes being made by socialist countries in the construction of socialism. He said that socialism could not be built using capitalist methods. There is an excellent book on this, and it would be advisable to review it if we want to learn more about Che's criticism—very thorough—when he was appointed president....[corrects himself] no, not president, minister of industry. He had to organize social st enterprises. What original and creative ideas he had! What a prophet he was when he warned about the ominous consequences that the use of those methods might have by alienating men, dividing men, and creating contradictions between economic development and society's interests. If Che was alive today, he would be saying: I told you so. I told you so. I warned about this. Since I became acquainted with the idea, quite a while ago, we have managed to articulate....[changes thought] to elaborate on this, to write all that—picking up the fragments, if you wish—of all those economic views. One now wonders and marvels at this great....[changes thought] What perspective and what ability he had to predict what would happen.

[Reporter] You said that there were no tanks capable of defending the socialist revolution in new countries. Then how can you explain the Cuban Army's participation in the Angolan revolution?

[Castro] I [words indistinct] mentioned that because the solidarity, our solidarity, in Angola is perhaps one of the most beautiful and exemplary pages about the true internationalist spirit. I want you to know that we did not go to Angola to defend socialism and that there was no socialism in Angola. There was a movement that struggled many years for its independence in Angola, and we supported it. That was the case there and in Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, which were old Portuguese colonies.

When independence came about, South African troops entered Angola and advanced more than 1,000 km—and they nearly annihilated the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola], which had achieved the country's independence. In other words [laughs] we did not send troops to defend socialism; we sent troops to defend a sovereign people against the South Africans' invasion, against the invasion of racism and apartheid. I believe it was a brilliant and glorious page—ask the Africans, ask the Africans. [applause, shouts]

I talk with African leaders of all political tendencies, and we have excellent relations, and everyone has enormous respect for Cuba, enormous affection for Cuba, because we were there 15 years. We were capable of remaining 15 years—in a firm, long, and difficult 15-year struggle.

However, we were not purposelessly defending socialism. We were defending an African country's sovereignty. The result of this struggle has been the withdrawal of South African troops, Namibia's independence, and even internal changes within South Africa, where opportunities have opened up, and there is now hope that the serious apartheid problem will be resolved politically.

I believe that one of the noblest gestures ever made was our gesture toward the Angolans. I also believe that the Brazilian people will agree with this because Brazil was one of the first countries to recognize the MPLA and establish diplomatic and economic relations with Angola. I am sure that the day the Brazilian people learn about this entire history—which somehow must be written and published—they will understand the extraordinary internationalist spirit behind our cooperation in Angola, which has nothing to do with all of the problems that we have been dealing with. We have been defending a country from foreign aggression; it was invaded by the troops of apartheid and racism. I will never be able to go against those who helped, and if the Brazilians had helped we would have applauded them. We should all be fighting alongside the Angolans. Angola is not in any way involved in the problem I have been discussing here, which is socialism's defense. Socialism can be defended with tanks from abroad.

Furthermore, we did not participate in the internal struggle. We have always been most careful in the countries we have helped, to avoid getting involved in their domestic problems. It is a rule we have followed. Is this clear? Does this answer your question, comrade? Is there anything else you would like to ask?

[Reporter] The Angolan war has been characterized as a civil war between two forces, between two people's armies. South Africa invaded the country and Cuba occupied it to defend its territory. Two foreign forces occupied Angolan territory—the South African invading Army, and the Cuban occupation Army.

[Castro] What occupation by the Cuban Army, sir? We had been helping the MPLA for approximately 15 years, and when the South African invasion took place, the MPLA requested our help. What kind of invasion did we perpetrate? You could say that France.... [changes thought] that Europe was invaded by the Americans, that Spain was invaded by the Americans, that Japan was invaded by the Americans. The Yankees have troops in

many countries as a result of agreements made by governments that are now occupied or invaded.

Furthermore, not only Cubans fought in Angola. The Angolan people fought heroically. There is an Angolan Army, and the Angolan and Cuban Armies fought together against the South African troops. Tens of thousands of Angolans died defending their fatherland. How can you describe Cuba's help as an invasion or occupation? There is an Angolan Government that makes the decisions in that country, that governs, that is responsible for the country. Cuba had no government in Angola. We did not administer that country, and we were not in any way involved in the government's functions. Angola's MPLA government administered the country. [Angolan President] Jose Eduardo dos Santos visited Brazil. Why did you not ask him about this? Who could answer this question better than an Angolan? Who could answer? [applause, cheers]

Further News Conference

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[Fourth of six installments of "Fidel in Brazil" series, including "portions" of interview on "Roda Viva" program and news conference in Brasilia and Sao Paulo, Brazil, respectively, with President Fidel Castro by unidentified reporters, in Portuguese with simultaneous Spanish translation; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Roda Viva Program:

[Reporter] You said that the Soviet Union is unable to manufacture even one suit, even though it sends (?missiles abroad). In the last speech you gave at the congress of the Federation of Cuban Women, you said that Hungarian buses poison the world. Did it ever occur to you that the socialist system of production has failed in the production of consumer goods?

[Castro] I think there are mechanisms that are associated. It is tied to the isolation in which they lived. It is associated with the lack of a culture of quality. To a certain degree, it can also be linked to the fact that since they could not import products because they had no currency, they had to manufacture them in any way they could. Perhaps if they had had a more developed trade, they might have been able to specialize in certain quality products and import the rest. That is the advantage of world trade. However, they were isolated for a very long time and they had to manufacture everything. All these factors and the mechanisms they used had some influence on the quality.

These things conspired against quality. If I pay you to manufacture shoes in an enterprise and I pay you per shoe, if I pay you to make 30 pairs of shoes, if I pay you to make 30 pairs [repeats himself], if I pay you 25 [unit of currency not specified] for 25 pairs, that formula conspires against the quality of the shoes. You then manufacture shoes as quickly as possible. I believe in setting a reasonable standard to solve a problem. I believe quality must be a fundamental factor. Otherwise, you will manufacture any shoe, anything.

If you manufacture things based on outdated technology and you do not upgrade it, you will manufacture shoes of poor quality. If the raw material you use is of poor quality, your product will be of poor quality. It is a combination of factors.

Productivity is not dependent upon a man's animal strength—we have to call it something—the physical effort the man makes. Quality and productivity are increasingly being associated with technology. For example, it may take a traditional lathe worker seven hours to manufacture one item. No matter how skilled that man is, he cannot manufacture two identical parts, even though he measures everything, takes every measurement. No two items will be identical. There are no two identical parts, no parts that are exactly the same.

If you program an automated lathe, instead of making the part in seven hours, it can make it in 20 minutes. It has thus multiplied its productivity by who knows how much. It has also multiplied its quality because all the parts manufactured by these machines are identical. The parts are used to make different types of equipment.

I would say that today, in many things, productivity and quality are dependent upon technology. The time will come when robots manufacture things. Robots do not make mistakes. They do not get distracted. Do you not remember the sick woman? Do you not remember the bride? They are turning the screws there. [laughter] The Japanese are filling their factories with robots.

I have seen some documentaries on modern industries and I can see that there is a tendency toward an industrialized world. The workers do not manufacture merchandise. Merchandise is produced by machinery and the workers manufacture machinery and factories. That is reality. For example, I recently saw a washing-machine factory. I did not see it personally but I saw it on a videocassette recording. I asked that it be studied. The factory manufactures kitchens [as heard]. The man does not do anything. The steel sheets come out here. There are some people assigned to supervise the process. In the end, the washing machine is manufactured. They are all identical and of high quality. They manufacture the kitchen, everything, like that.

Now, in the superindustrialized countries, men make factories and factories make merchandise. In many places, men no longer make merchandise.

[Reporter] From what you have said, it appears that you are looking for new economic and trade partners. Yesterday you mentioned the creation of large trade blocs in Asia, Europe, etc. You proposed the creation of a Latin American bloc, but Latin American countries are economically ruined. Do you think that a bloc of poor countries is possible? Do you think that the peoples would be happier?

[Castro] You spoke to me yesterday. Were you not at the reception yesterday?

[Reporter] Yes.

[Castro] You asked me if we would not just be integrating misery.

[Reporter] Yes.

[Castro] That was the word you used to describe poverty. What you said is clear. The world is going to belong to large economic communities. Europe is forming an economic community, despite its centuries of war and the fact that no one understands the other's language. The languages are very difficult. It is not like us speaking here. You speak in Portuguese and we speak in Spanish. These are the most prominent languages we have in this hemisphere. They speak Dutch, German, Italian, French, Spanish. Despite all those languages, they have been able to integrate their economies and they are integrating their [words indistinct]. None of these countries, which are much more developed than us, can imagine their future without economic integration. They do not want to even think about it.

The United States is a large economic community. Japan is a large economic community. China will be a large economic community. The day the Chinese manufacture like the Japanese, I do not know where they will distribute their merchandise. Everyone has a solution. Everyone has a solution. [repeats himself] If everyone follows the Western style, the world's oil will last a 10th of the time it should last and environmental pollution will be 10 times worse. Models of society have emerged that cannot be taken as examples, as models. If India, China, and everyone else attained the same levels as Japan, then no one knows what can happen in this world, especially with the use of robots and technology. Even the world's raw material will be used up. Societies have been developed that are far from being examples for the Third World.

The USSR, in one way or another, will be a large community in its day. It has fabulous resources. It has a scientific base. Although it may not apply it, it still has a scientific base. It has large collectives of scientists.

Now, will there be a future for small and isolated countries in the world of tomorrow? Do they have a future? It can be confirmed that they are very poor. It can be confirmed that we have a large amount of poverty. However, if we do not unite our forces, if we do not unite our knowledge, if we do not unite our resources in one way or another, we will not have any future in the year 2000, in the future, and in the near future. We will once again become the Indians. That is what I was saying yesterday in the meeting at the America Memorial. We must be very careful. We have to be understood, studied, helped, otherwise we will become even more underdeveloped. If the abysmal development and technological trend continues, we will become the Indians of the year 2000. We will once again be discovered, colonized. We are already semicolonized, neocolonized. Others want to discover and conquer us and to treat us.... [changes thought] Even though we wear suits, even though we wear clothes, and have a few modern things, the United States treats us like Indians. Anyone who is informed knows what type of relations the United States has developed with Latin America. They despise us. Now that they feel like they are practically the owners of the world, now that they feel like they are practically the owners of the word [repeats himself], they are more arrogant, more triumphalist, more [word indistinct]. They do not even remember us. Anyone who is familiar with discussions between the United States and Latin American leaders would blush from the way they treat us, their superficiality, the simplicity with which they speak to us. We have.... [changes thought]

That is true; but I am certain that between Cuba and Brazil, the two examples they set, many common things can be accomplished, even with two different economic and social systems. We can exchange technology. We can even have industrial exchange. There may be industries you have which would benefit us here, Cuban-Brazilian industries. We have the technology. We even have capital. Brazilian industries could exist in Cuba. There are other businessmen there. There is a Cuban enterprise that has a partner there. We can have a joint enterprise.

If you want a hotel, one who wants a hotel does not want just any other thing. He might say: Let us assemble a freight-elevator factory. Of course, we prefer to manufacture exportable products.

Yesterday I said, and I said it for the first time, that I arrived at this conclusion and I clearly saw the possibilities for us to have economic integration this way. It is very important. We have the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, and advanced medical equipment industries. We can have a factory here. We can be partners with Brazil. We will bring the technology. We will import capital. We will identify its market. There are many possibilities for this country.

[Reporter] Does it not seem like a contradiction for the Brazilian businessman to invest in Cuba for the purpose of making a profit? How can you explain that contradiction?

[Castro] [Words indistinct] I will explain it to you. Any country would like to own everything, even the Brazilians. You have multinational firms here. You would like to own [chuckles] the multinational firms but you do not have the capital for it. I do not think it would be reasonable for us to build a sugar center [words indistinct] in a mixed society. I do not think it is reasonable for us to manufacture a lot of things for domestic consumption, but if we can do it for exports, we should. If we produce items for domestic consumption, they could be cheaper than buying them abroad. We could manufacture them with a firm from another country.

We begin with the hotels. We not only have hundreds of kilometers of beaches and excellent areas, we are combining through causeways the keys, that have magnificent beaches, and the mainland. Cuba has the ability to build 250,000 rooms. It would be a business worth billions [currency not specified].

If you do not have the capital, if you do not have the market, if you do not have the technology, because tourism is also technology until you learn it, then you do not have anything. But if you have the market, capital, and technology, then that is good. Cuba can say: In 50 years, we can do this with our own resources but we do not need that much money for those 50 years. We need it for eight, 10, or two years. Then, it is mutually convenient. It is a practical matter. That place that otherwise would not be developed, that air, that sea, in a world that is desperate because of pollution, would be developed this year.

This does not only apply to tourism. There are countries that have the technology, the capital and the markets. I think we can be their partners. Now, we have to give them facilities, otherwise they will not invest in our country. They can recover their capital in a short time. We would also recover our capital in a short time because the hotel is not just being built with their capital, but also with ours. They use their convertible currency for certain materials, elevators of a certain kind that must be very safe, electrical plants, or other articles. We build. We supply the work force. We manufacture the cement, sand, rock, machinery for construction. We have marble. We have excellent marble. We own approximately half of the hotel. If you do not give this company this opportunity, it will not invest. You cannot cling to the pure idea that there will not be a single foreign investor here. At the same time, however, I am proposing something else: that we make foreign investments abroad. It becomes a kind of compensation and it becomes a kind of reciprocal guarantee. You have things there and we have things here.

For example, there are many obstacles to economic development in the world. You can find a tariff obstacle. You may have the technology but you cannot overcome this tariff obstacle. Then you have no other alternative but to make a foreign investment to overcome the tariff obstacle to be able to export the product. Life is very rich in possibilities. We can do this without abandoning any of our principles because it is the state that is doing this, in one way or the other, and it is doing it for the people.

What will we get out of it—socialism throughout all of Latin America to create integration, or will we become capitalists? I do not think either one of these things is necessary for integration. This is one of the more interesting things of which I have become aware.

[Reporter] Regarding the example you just gave, do you not think we are heading toward the definite death of ideology and toward a new era of pragmatism between countries?

[Castro] The death of ideology?

[Reporter] Yes, of ideology.

[Castro] I do not think that ideology will die. I will tell you something; everything will leave something. Christianity was an ideology and it left a lot of things that are still valid, such as its statements on the poor, the rich, and many other things. I have gotten a lot of ideas from the Bible, which I feel have political validity. The French Revolution was an ideology and it took on many different forms. It advanced and retreated because of Napoleon's errors, because of his blunders, and the craziness that overtook him. He wanted to invade the old empire of the czars and create a Napoleonic empire. In the end, the French Revolution retreated and the absolute powers once again returned. Nevertheless, the ideas of that revolution, which advanced and retreated, are the ideas that prevail today in a large part of the world. There are some ideas that are eternal, such as the unity of man, the liberty of man. These things did not always exist. They emerged, and each of these ideas will leave behind its best features. Ideology will never be lacking. It will never be excessive. Ideology to us is the solution to the problems we have discussed, the equitable distribution of wealth. To us, ideology is a dream that a man has. He works according to his ability and he receives things based on his needs. That is what communism is. It is not socialism. We are in the socialist stage where man works according to his ability and he receives things based on his work. We have diverse salaries but we swear that there is not much of a difference between the lowest and highest wages. Of course, our socialist formula implies that a prominent doctor will earn more than another kind of doctor. There could also be a worker who is very specialized and who earns more than a doctor. Perhaps one day, if you want a gravedigger, you might have to pay him more than you pay a doctor because he is the one who will do the burying.

[Reporter] Shortly before we began to record our interview, we commented on the package of Brazilian economic measures and we spoke primarily of the confiscation of checking accounts [cuentas corrientes]. It is being said that a revolution occurred in the Brazilian economy as of 15 March. You led a revolution in Cuba. In the beginning, did you confiscate checking accounts in Cuba?

[Castro] This is a topic you and I discussed, commented upon, and you asked if I could speak about my experience. I should avoid analyzing measures taken by the government because I would then be getting into a domestic matter. If I did, one would be able to say that my remarks are a lack of courtesy. I can speak and think in general terms. I think.... [changes thought] I am very interested in all the measures you take because I am aware of Latin America's problems, the beating it has taken from inflation, all those things, the debt, and the enormous difficulties any Latin American government has today. I am always very curious to see what measures

are being developed, how they will resolve those problems. Latin American governments have been trying for some time to solve these problems and it has been demonstrated that it is very difficult. That is why my attitude is one of observation, which is what I will do with much interest. [Words indistinct] our wealth, our knowledge, our experience on these topics. As a politician, a leader, this helps me reflect on the magnitude of the problem and on where certain formulas can solve these problems.

In speaking of this, I was asked how we conducted our revolution. We took measures. At that time, we had inflation problems. Batista and many of his people had taken a lot of money. There was a lot of money in the hands of (?Batista supporters) to fight the revolution. We changed the currency but when we changed the currency, we said: make deposits. Anyone who has money at home, deposit it. We returned a portion of the money to those who did have money—not all of it. However, if a person had $1,000, we returned his $1,000 to him. Up to certain amount, we returned the entire sum of money. After a specified amount, the money was confiscated. This is the money that was not in the banks. We did not touch the money that was in the banks. Some people even had half-a-million pesos. The peso was equivalent to the dollar. Some people had the money in the bank and we did not touch the money in the banks. We have never touched the money that was deposited in the banks because we have always given priority importance to the people's security, so the people feel secure in keeping their money in the bank.

Resolving inflation was not our objective. Our purpose was to take the money from all those people who had robbed the money, who had hoarded money and hidden it, buried it, or had it abroad, and were going to use it against the revolution. We had two different objectives. I really do not know how we would have.... [changes thought] We have avoided measures—that is not policy—we have avoided measures.

Of course, we defend ourselves in other ways. We have a number of rationed products. They are regulated and sold at economical prices. That has been our world trademark. No one gave us financing, but if we issued money [si nosotros emitiamos] and the price was free, we would not have that regulation. We have not had to do that because of our country's condition. Any injection of money into circulation would seriously affect the sectors with the lowest incomes. That is why the child who needs something is guaranteed he can get that item at an economical price, even a subsidized price. Many things are that way. We also have a parallel market for those who have a higher income and want to buy a product that is much more expensive. That is an important source of revenue. Because of our system, on account of our system, we are also able to subsidize certain products and ask a high price for others. For example, we subsidize milk but we put a high price on beer, rum, cigarettes, all those things which are not essential and which, at the same time, to a certain degree help health programs.

We also know that when we want to collect money.... [changes thought] At this time, we are issuing money. We have not had the disaster of ridiculous prices for the people's basic food items. Prices have been maintained. Since we are in a development program, we say we will issue 400 million [pesos]. We know how we will collect it. We know what raw material we have to import and what product will need the raw material. With a relatively small expenditure of hard currency, we can collect large sums of money internally. These are mechanisms we use to defend ourselves because the demands for money could lead to problems. If they do not affect the cost of the food you are buying, it could affect interest in work. A married couple could say: One person working is enough. A lack of interest in work can result. That is why we are careful about these phenomena, which we cannot describe as inflationary, but as a surplus of money in circulation above the total amount of goods and services available.

In our condition, we have not been able to.... [changes thought] You cannot imagine how glad we are every day to have been able to escape the scourge of inflation. We financed our development. We do not have a World Bank, Inter-American Bank, IMF, or anyone else who loans us money. We have to get it from our own resources and our own imagination.

[Reporter] You try to distinguish between the Soviet Union and other East European countries that are getting away from socialist regimes, but it is evident that the USSR is also adopting measures that are more capitalist, especially now. This is also happening in African countries which had adopted the socialist regime. Do you never feel like you are observing troops marching in one direction and then in another, so that they are then wandering?

[Castro] Troops that march in the same direction, if they are heading toward the enemy, are the ones that are marching correctly. That is what I feel.

[Reporter] Yes.

[Castro] There are no two identical situations. The USSR is making reforms. It is introducing certain elements. It is introducing mixed societies while we are doing it. The USSR is talking about (?privatizing) land. We do not talk about that. We carried out a different kind of agrarian reform. We did not force anyone to unite. There are still 70,000 independent peasants in Cuba. No one can tell us about independent peasants because we know who they are and what they produce. They are privileged because we helped them in everything. We forgave their debts every time there was a drought or disaster. The Cuban peasant is [words indistinct]. We have cooperatives that were formed voluntarily. We have modern state enterprises that are highly mechanized. We did everything differently. For us to begin seizing our sugarcane plantations and distributing it into parcels would ruin us. We would cease to be sugar producers. We would even cease to have the opportunity to agree with you, to elaborate foreign policies on the

development of the sugar industry as one of the world's largest sugar producers. We could not do that.

We would not even have anyone to whom we could give that land. Our large rice plantations work because people plant with airplanes and work with machinery. They harvest with combines. They are located in distant places. You cannot find people in Cuba who will go work in an isolated place just to lease a piece of land. You cannot do that in reality. You cannot do that in practice.

The USSR does that but the Soviet Union has not said that it plans to construct a capitalist economy. It has said it will maintain socialism. It has said it will maintain its essential principles. The USSR also has openly said it is heading toward a market economy and toward the privatization of state lands. The USSR has not done this. It is acting with more prudence in all this and with more care. They are testing the ground. At no time have I heard one more word about what they are doing.

We will assume that the USSR wants to make a few changes. [claps hands once] It is none of our business. Everything depends on future relations. We do not necessarily have to be a country that is organically socialist, organically pure to trade with the USSR. China has also applied a number of reforms and we maintain excellent economic relations with item and those relations are growing. The USSR can apply whatever reforms it wants to apply and we can maintain our economic relations with it. It needs our sugar, nickel, cobalt, citrus. It is even increasing its demand for biotechnology, our pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment. This year we will provide the USSR with about 300 million rubles worth of products.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct].

[Castro] Yes, that is the situation. No two situations are alike. I think that the right thing is for everyone to decide his own direction and that the rights of others be respected, including our right to take the direction we feel is appropriate.

[Moderator] We appreciate the interview with Mr. Fidel Castro. Would you like to make a final observation before you say goodbye to our television viewers?

[Castro] I have felt very good. I have felt all the warmth of hospitality, friendship, and the familiarity of the Brazilians, especially here in Brasilia. The people are very good and polite here and in Sao Paulo.

Yesterday, during the final toast given at a dinner hosted by the governor, the comrades were speaking and Daniel [Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega] said: I will soon leave. I will be leaving soon. When I finished, I said: I will not leave. I am staying. I wanted to say, with great sincerity, [chuckles] that my body, my weight, my baggage will all leave but my heart, a large part of my heart, will remain here in Sao Paulo.

[Moderator] [Passage indistinct].

Sao Paulo News Conference:

[Reporter] Mr. President, on the first day of President Aylwin's government, he renewed diplomatic relations with several countries. A large majority of the Chilean public was surprised that Cuba was not among those countries. What do you think of this situation? During your meetings in Brasilia, did you have any talks with the Chilean delegation which would indicate that the renewal of relations would be soon?

[Castro] I think one of the countries that has shown the most solidarity with Chile during these past 17 years is Cuba. Cuba is one of the countries that has received most of its exiles, which has (?supported) it the most, which has collaborated with it the most. Cuba is one of the countries that has shown more solidarity with the struggle of the Chilean people during these past 17 years.

Now the presence of a Cuban delegation at that change of government was not up to us. It was up to the current authorities. It was up to the previous Chilean authorities and the current Chilean authorities. The decision to establish relations with Cuba is the Chilean Government's affair. It is a decision that they have to make.

As you now, the transition of government has taken place under exceptional, slightly irregular, conditions. I also think that the country is in a complex stage for transition. There is a certain amount of duality of power there. That is unquestionable.

You know that Cuba is a [word indistinct] country, a controversial country, a complicated country in the international sector. One always considers what the United States thinks, and the United States does not want diplomatic relations reestablished between Cuba and Chile.

To the United States, the enemy is now Cuba. It does not lose sleep if relations are reestablished between Chile and other countries but it is very concerned if relations can be reestablished with Cuba. Everything that is related to Cuba is subject to special hostility and pressure from the United States. I think that the new authorities should consider internal and external circumstances before taking this step.

I had the opportunity for a few moments to be with several heads of states, including Chilean President Patricio Aylwin. I do not recall ever having met him before. Nevertheless, we greeted each other in a very natural, spontaneous manner. Of course, we did not discuss the problems of relations between Chile and Cuba. We exchanged views on the inauguration. We exchanged stories about the ceremony, what happened here, what happened there. At the ceremony at the stadium, he told me about some incidents, some characteristics of some people who had participated in the ceremony. We talked about that. We saw each other again and we joked in a cordial environment, in a friendly atmosphere. I say this honestly and I should add that this Chilean political figure made a good impression on me. I have the feeling that he is a person you can talk

to, that communicating with him would not be difficult. This, however, was not the appropriate time to discuss the topics you asked about. It was also not conceivable that Cuba should appear anxious and impatient to renew diplomatic ties with Chile.

In this case, it was not Cuba that broke relations with Chile, it was Pinochet. He broke relations with Cuba after his coup d'etat and I think that the initiative to renew relations should come precisely from Chile because of this change of government.

[Reporter] I would like to know how you see the role of the Solidarity Trade Union and Lech Walesa in today's Poland knowing that Solidarity has relations with the Church, that it is adopting IMF measures, and that it hopes for financial assistance from the United States, which is something that is not happening in general.

[Castro] You want to know what I think of Walesa's role or Solidarity's role?

[Reporter] Both.

[Castro] To tell you the truth, I feel no sympathy whatsoever for Walesa. Walesa has even met with counterrevolutionary worms and he has declared himself an enemy of the Cuban revolution. Walesa has been spoiled by the West and the United States.

I imagine that the Solidarity Trade Union are a phenomena resulting from errors of all sorts committed by that revolutionary process that pretended to be socialist at one time in Poland. Certain people who did not sympathize with socialism took advantage of the circumstances. They received a lot of incentives from the West. In the end, they gained an unquestionable amount of strength in the country and they comprise a component of that antisocialist trend that is occurring in some East European countries.

The relationship between Walesa and the Church is something I respect. They each have the right to sustain the kinds of relations they consider to be the most convenient.

No one knows what Walesa's ideology is. What is evident is his proximity to the political positions of the West and to the economic and social concepts of the West. Today, he supports a government that is making the transition to capitalism. Today, he is doing the opposite of what he used to do. He used to organize strikes and protests against low wages, the cost of living, etc., but now it turns out that the wages are lower than ever. The cost of living has risen more than ever. A new, very strong workers' movement is developing. Because of these circumstances, everyone's role has changed. Walesa supports IMF and World Bank measures. Walesa supports the policy of the Yankee specialists, of Bush's advisors who are planning the transition from socialism to capitalism while the other trade unions are today defending the rights of the workers to better wages and better standards of living.

There is no doubt that many dreams have developed in Poland. They think that a deluge of dollars and assistance will come from the West. They are not going to be happy with anything less than one car per family. This is all a dream.

The country owes around $40 billion and the debt is growing. The demands made upon it by the IMF includes denationalization and privatization of industries, dismantling of socialism, but not even this way do I think they will be able to fulfill even a portion of the chimeras they are dreaming about.

It is possible that some may begin to discover the good part of socialism. It had its bad parts and its good parts. Once everything is privatized, even the schools and hospitals, once they see what unemployment means—because the reconversion of the economy, and no one knows how long this will take, will result in millions of unemployed workers—once the peasants see that they have no guaranteed prices for their products, they may start to feel nostalgic for the bad socialism they had because the socialist model they had was not a good one.

They will have to work. They will see that capitalism is less paternalistic than socialism. They will have to find products that are good for something, that are good for trade. Cars will not fall from the sky. Life in Warsaw will not be like living in Paris. They will have to find markets for their products, and I do not think they will have an abundance of clients because what is no good, is no good. Many of the things they manufacture are made with outdated technology and are of poor quality because one of the drawbacks of the methods they selected to construct socialism, besides alienating people, is that they encourage workers to manufacture poor-quality products.

We are observing a new, very interesting stage, which will be of the highest value to sociologists, psychologists, politicians, specialists, and economists, to see how that phenomenon of the transition from capitalism [corrects himself] from socialism to capitalism progresses under Europe's conditions. It is possible that they may experience new forms of neocolonialism. Europe is euphoric and impatient to attain all those natural resources. It is impatient to make big investments in those countries, to obtain big profits, and to multiply its value. Those of us interested in this matter will have the opportunity to see how events unfold.

[Reporter] President Fidel Castro, during these past two days in Sao Paulo, you cited many statistics on the success of the Cuban revolution in several sectors, such as health, education, agriculture, and sports. There should be some sector in which the Cuban people are not satisfied. What do the Cuban people complain about on a day-to-day basis?

[Castro] Hmmm. Cubans have resolved a lot of problems but we have not solved every problem. I have spoken about the great successes in those fields. That is what I was asked about. You could have asked me, if you like, for an average of how many eggs the chickens lay. I can

tell you what the conversion is into animal feed and poultry meat, how much milk our cows produce, how much protein our citizens eat, how many calories they consume, and many other things. Our country is not developed. It is a country that is making a great effort to develop in the economic and social fields.

I can guarantee, however, that there will no great social developments if there are no important economic developments. Can a country count on having almost 300,000 professors and teachers if it does not have a material basis with which to sustain those programs? You would not be able to have programs for health, education, sports, school construction, child-care centers, polyclinics, [word indistinct], sports installations, ambitious housing programs, if you are unable to support them with social development. There are many areas of the economy where our country has progressed considerably, but nevertheless, our country is still an underdeveloped country, much less a consumer country. We need many things.

In regard to food, we have a good level of nutrition, no less than 3,000 calories per capita a day, no less than 800 gm of protein with approximately 50 percent of this being animal protein. We continue to develop important food plans, primarily to ensure and increase our population's food consumption.

The textile industry has also grown. The amount of cloth per capita has increased but we still do not have the level of textile, shoe, and cosmetic consumption that Paris has. We also do not have a car for every family, nor do we develop the philosophy or model of European capitalist societies. We believe it would be crazy for the world if, for example, China, with 1.1 billion inhabitants; and India, with 800 million inhabitants; proposed a model of development similar to that of Belgium, Luxemburg, the United States, Japan, etc. Then the world's gasoline and gas would not last even five years.

These are truly crazy concepts, crazy development models which we unfortunately see in many countries and which sometimes multiply the anxieties of the people who want to have all those wonderful things that are nothing more than an impossibility, a dream, and a craziness that has even poisoned the air we breathe. Those are not our models, but illusions; wishes of all kinds are created in the world and we will never have a society that is satisfied with what it has. There will always be complaints and reasons to complain: a service will be inefficient, a product scarce. There will always be these kinds of problems about which people will complain. People will always have something to complain about.

However, there will be no complaint in our country about beggars, children abandoned in the street, or that dozens of children die every year in their first year of life, or that life expectancy is 40, 45, or 50 years. No one will complain in our country about malnutrition, illiteracy, children without schooling, people going hungry. Tens of thousands, dozens.... [changes thought] No one will complain of 20 to 30-percent unemployment and underemployment. No one will complain of prostitution, drugs, gambling, discrimination against women, discrimination against blacks. There will be many things that no one will complain about but it will always be necessary and convenient to find things to complain about, otherwise life would be terribly boring. Societies would come to a standstill and the world would cease to be the beautiful.... [corrects himself] Life would cease to be the beautiful adventure that it is.

[Reporter] President, considering the transformation of East Europe, what kind of future is reserved for socialism? What kind of future is reserved for Marxism and is the future of one indissolubly linked to the future of the other?

[Castro] Socialism and Marxism? There has been no eternal society. Anyone who has studied a little bit knows what existed a long time ago, including what happened in Rome, in that Greece which was so democratic. The citizens would meet to decide destinies in a plaza which certainly did not hold a lot of people and where there were not even any microphones. We know that those societies were divided into classes. A few citizens had all the rights. That is why they had small parks. Many citizens had no rights while others were slaves. We are very familiar with those societies. Feudal societies came later. They were followed by absolute monarchies, the French Revolution, Voltaire, Diderot, Jean-Jacques Rosseau, all those people. They represented the bourgeois liberal philosophy. The bourgeois revolutions followed in several areas. The most famous of these was the French Revolution. It progressed and regressed. After it spread throughout Europe and because of several historic reasons—the coalition of reactionaries, Bonaparte's errors—this was followed by reaction, counterrevolution, holy alliance, establishment of absolute monarchies, the coalition of all those monarchies to trample any revolution any where. We are familiar with this phenomenon. Anyone would have said that at that time, the liberal and bourgeois ideas disappeared forever. Nevertheless, those are the ideas, with their capitalism, market economy, representative democracy, all those things, that prevail in today's world. They are not the successful ideas of today's world because today's world is not just France, England, the United States, Japan, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Finland. There are 12, 15, or 20 successful countries but there are more than 160 countries in the world. The so-called bourgeois liberal philosophies have resolved absolutely nothing in this hemisphere. For example, they have not resolved anything in Africa or the Third World but those illusions are still being practiced.

In 200 years, Latin America has not resolved any of the problems I have mentioned here. If we discuss education, health, humane living conditions, the statistics are horrible. The social debt is at its lowest point. It is intolerable. They still have no reason to be grateful to bourgeois liberal capitalist philosophy which functioned quite well in the old metropolises which looted us for

centuries and which attained yesterday's prosperity with centuries of pain, suffering, and misery on the part of our peoples, who were colonized during the time of Christopher Colombus, enslaved, and looted until very recently. They still loot us even more. We do not have very many reasons to be grateful to them. Every year, 705,000 children die who could be saved. I do not think they have any reason to be grateful to that philosophy.

To give you an idea, we at least can say that in 30 years, we saved the lives of 300,000 children just by reducing the infant mortality rate. They have more reason to be grateful to socialism that capitalism. Every 10 years, 7 million or more of those children die.

So when we idealize that philosophy, we can see that there is no doubt that advancement, human progress has been accomplished. The French Revolution was a great advancement over feudalism and over absolute monarchy. There has been progress and setbacks.

I think that the same can be said about socialism. It is the new philosophy. It is what has to replace the egoism and anarchy of capitalism. Capitalism is a kind of savage society. It is a society in which the fundamental principle is everyone for himself, the strongest one prevails, the unhappiest one [word indistinct], the one who has less talent, energy, strength, or less relations with others.... [changes thought] That is capitalism. It is inhumane even though it is better than feudalism. For my part, I detest it the more I know about it. The more I think about it, the more it repulses me. I do not think that it can be man's ideal.

Even though this may be a difficult time, a delicate time for progressive revolutionary ideas, and socialist ideas, socialism will be the society of the future and perhaps with 80 [corrects himself] 50, 80, or 100 years, these are the ideas that will prevail in one way or another through one road or another for humanity. These will be the ideas that man tends to accept, that will make him more in solidarity with others, make him more humane, make him more of a man, because the worst instincts of man are what largely prevails in capitalist societies despite their veneer of civilization. That is what I think and I think that socialism will be the society of the future and it will progress or regress in certain countries but it will be the society of the future. [applause]

Castro Welcomes Ukrainian Children for Treatment

FL3003152190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1250 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] One hundred and thirty-nine Soviet children, victims of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident, arrived in Cuba last night. Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party [PCC] of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, welcomed them at the foot of the plane's steps. The children come from various Ukranian cities and are accompanied by 43 mothers. [video shows Castro and PCC Politburo member Vilma Espin greeting the children]

[Begin recording] [Reporter] We were talking with Dr. (Galina), who is in charge of the children, and she was telling us how touched the Soviet parents were, that they sent greetings to and recognition of the Cuban Government for the help it is going to give. I was thinking about the years that we have...[rephrases] mainly, you have supported public health and how satisfied we are now with being able to help a brother country such as the Soviet Union.

[Castro] I believe this is a small effort on our part. A great effort will not be required to treat these 136 children. They are going to receive the best attention, be seen by the best doctors, stay in the best hospitals, and receive the best medicines in the world. I believe we can provide this cooperation successfully. I said we are willing to receive more. They said many mothers approached them and they all wanted their children to come. I said this was not our limit. We can receive more.

I believe that perhaps we cannot do everything alone but it may help encourage others to cooperate also. They say that in the area where the accident took place—if I understood correctly—there are some 250,000 children. I hope not all of them are having problems. Some have more serious and others have less serious problems among the ones who have arrived.

Everything is organized. I would say it has been carefully organized. The Public Health Ministry has worked hard to have everything organized; the apartments where the mothers are going to live, all the services, translators, communications with the hospital—they are going to be in two hospitals.

(Galina), a Soviet doctor who I believe works with us here, was telling me that there were many mothers who called and wanted their children to come. I told her we would not establish any limit as long as we can receive them here.

This responds to a request made by the Ukrainian Leninist youth. It was later coordinated with the Ukrainian and Soviet authorities. We do not have all the information. Perhaps we will now be able to gather more information and make a greater effort in treating these children. I believe other countries should also cooperate but we will do everything possible.

[Reporter] Commander, regarding this medical aid....

[Castro, interrupting] This is not aid, it is a basic cooperation duty.

[Reporter] Regarding this cooperation, the Soviet Union has also requested help for Armenian children.

[Castro] Yes, we received three requests through various organizations, through the [words indistinct], the Ukrainian youths; and for people crippled in the war in

Afghanistan. They made a request for 10 and we said 15 could come. We have always offered a little more. The Union of Young Communists also presented us these problems. Apparently, they started to discover this. There are some Cuban doctors there, some of our medical teams. They can determine who are the ones in need; who are suffering from the consequences.

There was a request from Armenia to bring a number of orphan children. We agreed, we said 100 could come. The children will apparently be sent on a temporary basis. they will stay for a period of time here at the Pioneers' camp. We will also receive as many as needed. I am sure that tens of thousands of families will be willing to relate to those children, to help them. They are orphan children; they lost their parents. This is regarding the children from Armenia. What they have suggested now is to bring them on a vacation a little later.

I understand that the war injured who needed rehabilitation arrived at Frank Pais hospital while I was in Brazil. We have excellent hospitals and we can receive many of them. Here we have several hundreds of Salvadorans alone. We have treated them and rehabilitated them. Therefore, we can receive many Soviets if they need it.

Regarding the ones from Chrenobyl, we can also increase the figures. Now, once we have more data, information, the type of illness. I was very impressed when Dr. (Galina) told me—she is from the Ukraine and works here with us—that many mothers were asking for the children to come. We are going to study this. This is not a special effort for us. We can do it. We can do it without sacrificing our country or our people's health. We are willing and determined to do it. [end recording]

Risquet Signs Protocol With Ghanaian Officials

FL3003193190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and Secretariat, has received Kwane Peprah, secretary of lands and mineral resources of Ghana, who headed the Ghanaian delegation to the fifth meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission between the two countries. Hudu Yahaya, secretary of trade and tourism of that African nation, also participated in the meeting.

The two leaders expressed their satisfaction over the successful results of the exchange between Cuba and Ghana. They reiterated the will to continue working for the development of the mutually beneficial cooperation existing between the two countries.

Cuban Domestic Trade Minister Manuel Vila Sosa and Kwane Peprah signed the protocol of the fifth meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission for economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the two countries. The document provides for cooperation in the fields of sports, culture, basic and fishery industries, education, agriculture, and public health, among others.

In an interview granted to this newscast, Kwane Peprah condemned the tele-aggression and said all freedom-loving countries will express their opposition to this action.

Total of Troops Withdrawn From Angola Reported

FL0204123190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] In compliance with the bipartite agreements signed in New York on 22 December 1988 between Cuba and Angola, 783 internationalist combatants were withdrawn as planned in March, making a total of 32,217 combatants that have been withdrawn from the People's Republic of Angola as of 31 March 1990.

The schedule established in the agreement for withdrawing 33,000 troops by 31 March 1990 is one month behind as a result of the unjustified UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] actions against Cuban troops, which caused the temporary suspension of the departure of Cuban military personnel starting on 25 January 1990.

In accordance with the agreements signed, the entire process of withdrawing personnel has been monitored by the UN Verification Mission in the People's Republic of Angola.

Signed: Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [MINFAR]

DPRK Building Material Minister Visits

FL3103190190 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The current visit of the DPRK building material industry minister, Chu Yong-hun, will expand cooperation between that brother country and Cuba. During his stay in Santiago de Cuba, Chu Yong-hun has visited some of the projects under construction for the fourth congress of the Communist Party of Cuba. [passage omitted] The DPRK minister will soon sign in Havana a cooperation protocol in the building material industry.

Surplus Workers in Cienfuegos Relocated

FL3103131790 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1114 GMT 31 Mar 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] Of the 5,120 workers declared to be excessive personnel at Cienfuegos labor centers, 3,650 of them, or 66 percent, have been relocated. This is being done for the purpose of attaining realistic personnel rosters and introducing broader and more flexible occupations and responsibilities so that the workers can have a substantive work day. As a result of this effort, more than 9.5 million pesos worth of salaries were saved in Cienfuegos in 1989.

This year, in-depth studies will be conducted on indirect personnel involved in production and services and the rational use of surplus workers, who currently total 7,253 throughout the entire province.

Bahamas

Christie Sworn in as Minister of Agriculture

FL3003171690 Bridgetown CANA in English 1641 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, March 30, Cana—An independent Member of Parliament [MP] was being sworn in on Friday [30 March] as minister of agriculture, trade and industry. Perry G. Christie, 46, is returning to the cabinet of Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling who fired him as minister of tourism in the fall-out of the 1984 commission of inquiry into drug trafficking.

Christie, a lawyer, was not re-nominated by the ruling Progressive Liberal Party [PLP] as a candidate in the 1987 general election, when he was re-elected on an independent ticket by an overwhelming majority.

Christie will replace Ervin Knowles, who stunned Parliament on Wednesday [28 March] when he resigned admid allegations of nepotism and misuse of public funds.

The PLP has picked up an additional seat in the House of Assembly with Christie's appointment to the cabinet, giving them 32 of the 49 seats. The opposition Free National Movement has 16 seats and there is now one independent.

Christie, MP for Centreville, said: "I am excited by the challenge of increasing our ability to feed ourselves, of increasing our yield from the sea and of attracting the type of investment and expertise required to accelerate the constructive diversification of our economy and the expansion in employment opportunities."

Christie served as a PLP senator in 1974. He was minister of health and national insurance from 1977 to 1982 and minister of tourism from 1982 to 1984 when he and the other independent, Hubert Ingraham, were fired by Sir Lynden. At the time, the two had threatened to resign to protest disclosures of corruption in government that had surfaced before the commission of inquiry into drug trafficking. They were suspected of planning a rebellion with former Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna, who resigned hours before they were axed.

Orville Turnquest, deputy leader of the opposition Free National Movement, told Parliament on Thursday [29 March] he was extremely disappointed in Christie. The opposition did not contest Christie's seat in the last election, and instead urged their supporters to vote for the ex-PLP.

Dominican Republic

PRSC, PQD Sign Electoral Alliance Agreement

FL3003171690 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Christian Social Reformist [PRSC] and Democratic Quisqueyan Parties [PQD] have signed an electoral agreement in which they commit themselves to support common national candidacies in their voting ballots. Through the alliance pact, the PQD will have Dr. Joaquin Balaguer and Engineer Carlos Morales Troncoso as presidential and vice-presidential candidates, respectively, for the 16 May elections. The agreement states that PQD votes for the presidential and vice-presidential candidacies will be counted in favor of the PRSC, and the PRSC votes will be counted in favor of the PQD in line with what has been established in Article 75 of Electoral Law No. 5884 of 5 May 1962 and its amendments.

Haiti

Further on 29 March Demonstrations

FL3003214890

[Editorial report] Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole carries a recorded nine-minute report on the commemoration of the third anniversary of the Haitian Constitution of 1987 in the provinces at 1200 GMT on 30 March. Provincial correspondents report that there were sizeable commemorative demonstrations in the towns of Saint-Marc; Les Cayes; Hinche, "500 people"; Jacmel, "one of the biggest peaceful demonstrations ever organized in Jacmel"; and Pilate, where "many students took to the streets." The radio reports that there was no demonstration in Cap-Haitien. In a separate report carried during this same newscast, Radio Soleil adds that there was also a commemorative demonstration in Jeremie.

Highlighted during all these different 29 March demonstrations was the population's desire to have the Constitution respected, to see a rule of law established in Haiti, to see an end to corruption in the government and the public administrations, and to see an end to insecurity, macoutism, and undercover detectives.

Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole carries a one-minute report by its correspondent in Gonaives at 1400 GMT, where there was no demonstration on 29 March.

Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in Creole at 1130 GMT on 30 Mar carries a recording of Marineau Etienne and Frantz Patrick Beauchard, two OP-17, or 17 September People's Organization, leaders. They give their impressions after several thousand people participated in an anniversary demonstration in Port-au-Prince. They say democracy is budding in Haiti, but that there are many things the current Haitian government still has to do. Marineau Etienne says: "The struggle is a very long one, because, as you know, the

macoutes are many, they are strong, and they have weapons." Etienne contrasts the situation in Haiti to that of the U. S., where "when you see a policeman in the streets, all he has on him is a revolver. But in Haiti, the streets are militarized all day long, with a bunch of murderous heavy-caliber weapons out in the streets."

In the same Radio Antilles Internationales newscast, Antoine Izmery, a member of the Unity Committee for the Respect of the Constitution, is interviewed after the 29 March Port-au-Prince demonstration. He thinks the current government should do everything it can to demacoutize the nation and also to stop contraband, because the contrabandists are making money, which they give macoutes to massacre the population.

Also immediately following yesterday's demonstration, at Radio Antilles Internationales' production studio, Father Jean Bertrand Aristide makes some comments regarding the importance of the Port-au-Prince demonstration. Aristide says: "If this large mobilization does not lead to the arrest and trial of the big criminal godfathers, murderers, and massacrers, it is as if we were washing our hands and wiping them on the dusty ground to dry them." Asked whether the response of the people en masse to the demonstration in favor of democracy allows him to be optimistic about the future, Aristide replies in the affirmative but warns that this is "not a game" and that the if the criminals are not arrested and tried by the government, worse things will happen down the line.

CATH Headquarters Vandalized by 'Thugs'

FL3003211290 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] After a group of people attacked CATH [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers] headquarters on Rue des Casernes, Yves Antoine Richard made this statement on the matter.

[Begin Richard recording] CATH vigorously denounces the act of brigandage on 29 March at about 1430 hours committed by undesirables who have nothing to do with the union. These people were led by Idli Cameau, Gabriel Miracle, Eric Lafortune, Serge Desroches, (Jean Elionore), and so forth.

While CATH workers and peasants were preparing a news conference, these thugs showed up with a group of evildoers to trash the wall the CATH had just built so the union federation could operate in a modernized locale. The thugs destroyed an office and stole a CATH typewriter and all the documents that were in the office. They also manhandled the workers and peasants present on the premises, severely beating a pregnant working-class woman and the president of the (SOVA) union, (Nicolas Louisdonne). [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Announcer] Also Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Gabriel Miracle, and Joseph Manusi Pierre, members of the CATH, have issued a press release on this matter. [passage omitted]

They say they heard over the radio that there was an incident at CATH headquarters on 29 March. They say they deplore the incident and ask the Haitian people not to get ahead of the courts, because they have already initiated legal proceedings and they think the courts will dispense justice to those deserving it. However, they ask the Haitian people to remain mobilized so as not to lose the gains of 10 March. In view of the conflict that exists between themselves and a group of mercenaries who have seized the CATH, the matter must be decided in court. The Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Civil Court of Port-au-Prince is supposed to hear this case today, 30 March, at 1030. They ask the Haitian people to remain vigilant to confront the enemies of the Republic and democracy.

This press release is signed by Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Gabriel Miracles, and Joseph Manusi Pierre.

Ministry Appoints New Director General

FL3003153290 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Jean Andre Victor has been appointed general director of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development. [passage omitted]

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Attorney General Admits Prison Conditions Poor

FL3103163390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1516 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] United Nations, March 31, CANA—St. Vincent's Attorney General Parnell Campbell has admitted to a UN panel that prison conditions in his tiny nation were "awful." Appearing before the world body's human rights committee, which was reviewing St. Vincent's human rights record, the attorney general painted a picture of an overcrowded, unsanitary prison where inmates were beaten on occasions by guards. Still, he insisted, while it was true that "prison conditions were awful and overcrowded" the situation was far from what some people believed. He denied, for instance, that prisoners slept on the floor, "unless," he went on, "he has chosen to discard his mattress."

But while conceding that prison conditions were unsanitary, Campbell rejected charges that inmates were not allowed recreation periods. As for the quality of prison food, the attorney-general suggested that the diet was so good that the people in the country had complained that prisoners were being treated too well.

Turning to allegations about prison brutality, he denied that inmates were beaten regularly by guards, although, he admitted, such beatings had taken place on occasions.

Campbell said that doctors visited the prisons regularly to examine and treat inmates. In addition, prisoners with complaints were given an opportunity to air their grievances and "those complaints were generally dealt with," he added.

Referring to overcrowding, the attorney general pointed out that the prison was functioning at almost double its capacity, with 280 inmates occupying facilities that were built to accommodate 150 people. To solve that problem, he said that 275,000 dollars was being spent on preparatory work for a new prison which would emphasize agriculture, rehabilitation, and vocational training. Campbell expressed regret that the lack of space had prevented the authorities from separating juvenile offenders from adult criminals. Still, he asserted, the serious overcrowding had not caused wholescale violation of prisoners' rights.

The attorney-general invited any country to send delegations to inspect the prisons for themselves and he was sure they would find that the situation was not as bad as some people had portrayed them.

On the question of the death penalty and the calls by several committee members for its abolition in St. Vincent, Campbell promised to discuss the matter with his cabinet colleagues within a month's time on his return home.

After the intense question about the human rights situation in his country and the issues raised by the human rights experts on the committee, Campbell said he was "a much wiser man, if somewhat chastened." In addition, he told the panel that he had a better feel for its concerns.

Trinidad and Tobago

UNC Bids To Form New Official Opposition

FL3003183590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1419 GMT 30 Mar

Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 30, CANA—In an apparent bid to be recognised as the country's opposition, the six parliamentary members of the United National Congress (UNC) have written Trinidad and Tobago President Noor Hassanali saying they do not support the government.

"Your excellency, please be informed in accordance with the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago, that we, the undersigned members of the House of Representatives, do not support the present government," the letter from the former government members said.

The move by the former members of the National Alliance for Reconstruction (NAR) has been interpreted as an attempt by the UNC led by former Foreign Minister Basdeo Panday to replace the Peoples National Movement (PNM) as the opposition. The letter dated March 12 was signed by Panday, John Humphrey, a former minister of works, Kelvin Ramnath, former minister of public utilities, Trevor Sudama, former junior minister of finance, Raymond Pallackdharrysingh and Govindra Roopnarine.

The PNM after 30 years in power suffered a crushing 33-3 defeat at the hands of the NAR in December 1986 elections. Panday was deputy leader of the NAR but following a fallout with Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, he was along with Humphrey and Ramnath dismissed from the cabinet. Sudama, Pallackdharrysingh and Roopnarine resigned from the NAR and joined forces with their former United Labour Front (ULF) colleagues. The ULF had joined other parties to form the NAR. Last April they formed the UNC which promises to hold its first convention next month.

El Salvador

Cristiani Favors Amnesty for FMLN Guerrillas

PA3103131590 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1209 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani is expected to arrive at Comalapa International Airport at 0900 today after ending his official trip to Venezuela. In one of his last statements to the Venezuelan press, Cristiani said that he favors decreeing an amnesty as a basic contribution to attain a peace agreement in El Salvador. He also added that he is willing to discuss guarantees that may be offered to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas.

President Cristiani rejected the term purging of the Armed Forces, but admitted that the Armed Forces are being made more professional and that individual abuses have been committed within the Armed Forces. The FMLN has also committed these abuses and no one can or should act above the law, he said.

President Cristiani Holds News Conference

PA3103193890 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Mar 90

[News conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with local and foreign reporters and unidentified moderator at Comalapa Airport in San Salvador—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Reporter]....oil debt with Venezuela, could this represent some economic benefit for the people, namely a cut in fuel prices?

[Cristiani] Well, the debt's renegotiation per se is not part of the cost scheme for oil by-products. This time we signed agreement number 11 on the oil supply, and Venezuela agreed to slightly increase its supply. An agreement with Mexico is still pending, because they are the suppliers. We think we can possibly, depending on the price, because it is obviously an essential factor-...[changes thought] We have arranged for an analysis of the various possibilities of sending the crude oil from Venezuela to San Salvador, with the idea of reducing transportation costs.

This is being done in addition to another effort which has already been successfully concluded, thanks to Venezuela's good will; that is, to increase the term for paying the letters of credit. These are not highly influential factors, but if they are accompanied by a reduction in crude oil prices at the international level, this would certainly exert a certain influence that might affect the price of oil by-products.

[Moderator] Mr. Salvador Ayarza, EL NOTICIERO.

[Ayarza] Mr. President, referring to the upcoming presidential summit, one of the topics will be the demobilization of the contras. What will be the other points on the agenda?

[Cristiani] According to the agenda proposed in President Ortega's invitation, in addition to the contra issue—and in my viewpoint a lot of progress was achieved through the Toncontin agreement signed by the representatives of Violeta de Chamorro's future government and members of the Nicaraguan Resistance—there is the issue of cooperation in halting drug trafficking, the ecology issue, the balance of forces at the Central American level, and the Salvadoran case, of course. I do not know if I have forgotten something, Mr. Foreign Minister.

[Pacas] Verification.

[Cristiani] Yes, the political verification of democratic processes, in this specific case the Nicaraguan process. This was basically the proposed agenda.

[Moderator] Mauricio Ramirez, Radio Cadena YSU.

[Ramirez] Mr. President, according to an international report, you said in Venezuela that the government would suspend the state of siege when the dialogue is renewed. Could you confirm that?

[Cristiani] I believe that when the dialogue process is renewed it will become an element that will diminish the possibility of danger to the country's security. This would obviously allow the elimination of the last restriction remaining from the state of siege declared in November 1989. I believe there is an excellent opportunity for this to take place once the process is renewed.

[Moderator] Marina Cortina, NOTIMEX.

[Cortina] Mr. President, it was reported yesterday that Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's work in this dialogue process would end with the renewal of the dialogue. Is there a possibility that the secretary will participate in the talks again?

[Cristiani] I do not want to violate the agreement and disclose the progress achieved in the work to renew the dialogue, but I can tell you that the UN secretary general and his representative will play an active role in the future.

[Moderator] Miguel Solis, REUTER.

[Solis] Mr. President, will this government delegation to Geneva consist only of military members? What are their names?

[Cristiani] No, this meeting in Geneva is strictly to comply with another agreement. I do not believe there will be any problem in disclosing this, because this meeting is not that important. The only problem is that one of the agreements says that only the UN secretary general may release official information.

The Geneva meeting will serve only to report on the agreements reached so far, not for the actual start of the

negotiations. In this case, we will not necessarily be sending any members of the dialogue commission, but rather one or two representatives of the Salvadoran Government to serve as representatives for when the UN secretary general releases the full text of the agreements reached so far. Therefore, we do not believe there need to be any more people from the dialogue commission there at this juncture.

[Moderator] Salvador [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr. President, the Venezuelan president invited the FMLN and some political parties. At news conferences, Dr. Fidel Chavez Mena, the Christian Democratic Party secretary general, said that political parties should participate in the talks with the FMLN.

[Cristiani] Political parties will play a role during the talks. Frankly, I was very surprised to see the positions taken by some of the opposition parties in Venezuela, saying that the government had tried to shut them out of all the peace talks, something that you all know is untrue. Right from the start we invited a representative from each of the parties to join the commission. It was they who declined the invitation. Afterward, they admitted that several meetings were held between political opposition parties and the government before the meeting in Mexico. We discussed the possibility of the political parties helping with efforts toward rapprochement. They also held meetings with the FMLN. After that came the offensive, and we have not had much time to talk about this topic. However, I believe that once the political parties become familiar with the text they will realize they have a role to play. I find it surprising that they should go abroad and say untrue things.

[Moderator] We have a question in English, but before that we have time for two more questions in Spanish. Maria Jose.

[Jose] Mr. President, will you make any statements during the Managua summit on the dialogue process with the FMLN?

[Cristiani] Of course, at the Central American presidential level we have always followed up on the peace processes, both in Nicaragua and in El Salvador, and I do not see any reason why it should not continue to be that way and that we continue to lend support to the peace efforts in El Salvador. Of course, once the talks actually begin, the presidents will be following the developments. I do not foresee this as being a difficult topic right now, because an agreement has been reached and it is known that talks will begin. Therefore, it will probably be analyzed more closely at a later date.

[Moderator] Guillermo [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Mr. President, on the topic of the presidential summit, you mentioned you will discuss drug trafficking. Is there drug trafficking in El Salvador?

[Cristiani] We have had a few incidents. Let us remember the case where a small plane landed on a farm landing strip in the western part of the country. I remember another case where the person accused was released under unclear circumstances, and we are investingating how he was freed. We do not believe El Salvador has a serious drug problem at this time. We do believe that we must begin fighting it before it gets to be a problem. It is perhaps easier to control this and keep it from flourishing in our country. We must remember that Panama, which is allegedly a bridge for drug traffickers, will no longer be used and drug traffickers will be on the lookout for other possible places. We want to prepare for and thus avoid the possibility that Central America—specifically El Salvador—may be used for drug trafficking or for drug production for domestic use. That is why at the beginning of the year we signed an executive decree to form the antidrug trafficking commission. At the Central American level we are trying to coordinate each country's individual efforts so we can face this problem together.

[Moderator] Alberto Barrera, LA PRENSA.

[Barrera] Mr. President, I would like to know what procedures will be used at the Geneva meeting. What steps should be taken to ensure that the dialogue takes place?

[Cristiani] If we can compare it with anything, I would say that the Geneva meeting will be like the news conference given at the end of the meeting in Mexico in September, where it was annouced that there was an agreement outlining the dialogue process. The main reason it is being held in Geneva is that the UN secretary general already had a trip planned to several European countries and he requested this place and date as he would be traveling between two countries at this time without any other previous commitments, so he could make a stopover in Geneva. The place and date were chosen based on the UN secretary general's trip. He will be making the agreement announcement. I would imagine the talks themselves will begin in April, but there is still no place or date set. Probably these meetings will be through contacts with the UN secretary general's representative after 4 April.

[Moderator] This is the last question in Spanish.

[Reporter] Mr. President, today the newspaper carried shocking economic news—the banks are broke. How is the situation?

[Cristiani] There is no doubt that the banks are in a critical state. However, I want to avoid any speculation that the banks are broke and that the citizens' deposits are in any sort of danger. Bank deposits are not in any danger whatsoever. What we are really doing is cleaning up the banks' deposit accounts. As we have said before, the banks were found to be approximately 42 percent in arrears in their deposit accounts. Before beginning a bank privatization process these problems must be resolved. I want to emphatically and categorically say that it is not a question of any bank going under and that

no checking, saving, or time accounts are in danger. These are totally guaranteed and are not in danger.

[Moderator] We will now go on to the English segment. Richard Clements of Visnews.

[Clements] I would like you to answer in English, please. What does the Salvadoran Government expect, in general terms, from the upcoming meeting? I think that the government has no faith in the meeting. Also, what role will the opposition political parties have [words indistinct]?

[Cristiani] I will answer the first question before I answer in English. Referring to the second one, I obviously cannot reveal details that the secretary general will give on 4 April. I beg you to understand that we have pledged not to reveal anything. That is why I have talked in general terms.[Switches to English] The next meeting in Geneva on April 4 is a meeting in which the secretary general will announce the agreement reached between the FMLN and the Government of El Salvador with respect to the reinitiation of a dialogue process that will start at a later date. It has been agreed that any official information coming out of the dialogue process will only be given by the secretary general, and, since he is on a European trip, he asked for both the government and the FMLN to send a representative so that he can make the agreement public in Geneva on 4 April.

[Moderator] Thank you, Mr. President; thank you, Messrs. Ministers; and thank you, Messrs. Journalists.

Government, Guerrillas To Meet in Geneva 4 April

PA3003222190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1849 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] New York, United Nations, 30 Mar (AFP)—In an important step toward reaching peace in the bloody civil war in El Salvador, the government and guerrillas will meet in Geneva on 4 April. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will attend, a spokesman for this organization announced today.

Ricardo Castaneda, Salvadoran ambassador to the United Nations, did not rule out the possibility that President Alfredo Cristiani, who was in Caracas when the announcement was made at the United Nations headquarters, would attend this important meeting.

Ambassador Castaneda said that the decision to resume the dialogue was reached during negotiations held in Mexico City today that involved government, guerrilla, and UN representatives.

The meeting in Mexico brought about a rapprochement in the positions of the government and guerrillas and an agreement regarding the procedure that will be followed during the Geneva negotiations, the Salvadoran ambassador added.

Although UN spokesman Francois Giuliani did not specify the level of the Geneva meeting, the presence of the UN secretary general suggests the possibility that President Cristiani and high-ranking members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) leaders might attend, a diplomatic source consulted by AFP said.

Spokesman Giuliani added that Peruvian diplomat Alvaro de Soto, personal representative of the UN secretary general in the Central American peace process, will also attend the meeting. De Soto organized the upcoming meeting after making several trips between San Salvador, where he met with President Cristiani and other members of the government, and Mexico City, where he talked with FMLN leaders.

On 4 April, Perez de Cuellar will go to Geneva after an official visit to France; the visit is part of a tour through four West European countries.

The civil war in El Salvador, which has lasted for about 10 years, has been one of the bloodiest in Latin America's history. This war has cost more than 70,000 lives.

Nevertheless, the offensive that the FMLN unleashed late last year, and which resulted in violent confrontations in the capital and other main cities, apparently convinced both sides that it is impossible to achieve a military victory. As a result, the resumption of a dialogue was encouraged. Now, according to a diplomatic source, this will happen.

Official Confirms Talks

PA3103054690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0402 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Mar (AFP)—The Salvadoran Government confirmed on 30 March that it will attend a dialogue with the guerrillas on Wednesday, 4 April, in Geneva, Switzerland, to seek a negotiated solution to the 10-year-old armed conflict. The government "informs the Salvadoran people and the international community of its hope for peace in the country through the dialogue." This was stated in a communique read at a news conference by Information Secretary Mauricio Sandoval.

The government will be represented by the same commission that participated in the unsuccessful talks with the rebels held last year in Mexico and Costa Rica, Sandoval reported. Justice Minister Oscar Santamaria will head the official delegation. Two more high-ranking military chiefs may be in the delegation. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will participate as an observer. So far, it is not known who will represent the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) delegation. According to Sandoval, only Perez de Cuellar has the authority to mention the topics that will be discussed at the meeting. Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani voiced his hope that the talks will be held without interruption until agreements are reached to end the bloody conflict.

FMLN Commander Interviewed

PA0104013890 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1845 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Interview with Salvador Samayoa, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Political Commission by unidentified reporter—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Reporter] ...that one or two government delegates will attend the Geneva meeting. However, he did not want to give any more details on the personalities who will travel. Can you tell us about the level of the delegates that the FMLN will send to Geneva?

[Samayoa] Yes, Carlos. We will be represented by members of the General Command and the Political and Diplomatic Commission, which are our highest bodies dealing with this kind of activity.

[Reporter] Can you give us any names?

[Samayoa] We would rather wait until Tuesday, when we will establish communications with YSU from Geneva to report on the details of the event.

[Reporter] Do you have anything else to say on the agenda, the main points of which are the situation of the state of siege and other subjects?

[Samayoa] Those are the subjects to be discussed in the negotiating process. As I told you, the suppression of individual and collective guarantees must be stopped. Repression by government forces, which has been going on for so long, must cease. We must achieve democratic, serious, and true rights for the country. For this, we have been fighting for so long with so much sacrifice. This will be the main thrust of the negotiating process. The Geneva meeting will focus on the purpose of our negotiations. We have been surprised, however, by Sandoval's rash remarks saying that this will be the last time he participates in any United Nations meeting. The negotiations are only starting. Sandoval is being poorly informed by the Presidency. His stand is absurd. What we will do in Geneva is initiate an entire process sponsored by the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Therefore, the participation of the Secretary General does not end, but begins, at this meeting. We have also been surprised by President Alfredo Cristiani's remarks in Caracas. He said that amnesty for the FMLN will be discussed so that our organization joins in the country's regular activities. We have told him again and again that we have never asked, and are not asking, for any type of protection or guarantees for us as FMLN members. What we are demanding is democratic rights and respect for the country's population and political and social forces. We do not ask for protection for ourselves. This is why we are surprised by the type of remarks Cristiani insisted on making in Caracas.

[Reporter] What do you people think about the participation of Perez de Cuellar's representative in this resumption of the talks? What has been the main obstacle for the FMLN in starting this new round of talks?

[Samayoa] This has been a difficult process that has required several private meetings between Perez de Cuellar's representative, the government, and us during January, February, and March. There have been a number of obstacles. One of them was denied by Cristiani. The government hampered the participation of the political and social forces in the peace process. It is evident that we must all participate in achieving peace and that we cannot leave or exclude anyone. This is not a problem between the government and the FMLN, but a conflict that affects the entire society. All of the organizations that represent our people and sectors without exception must play an active role. This has been one of the obstacles, but fortunately we have already succeeded in clearing it.

In addition, it has been difficult to agree on the type of negotiations we will conduct. Our stand is that peace must include social justice and true democracy. Peace must meet the aspirations of the Salvadoran people whose economic situation is distressing. The people have suffered repression for a long time. All of this must end. This is the purpose and essence of the negotiations, which we have been discussing in indirect meetings through Perez de Cuellar's representative.

[Reporter] What will be the role played by the Salvadoran opposition parties in this new round of talks?

[Samayoa] We think they should express their points of view, contributions, and demands on subjects like the electoral law amendments, now that less than a year remains before the new elections. Clearly, the electoral system must be reformed so these elections can be legitimate and profitable for peace in El Salvador. The parties should also make their contributions toward reforming the judicial system and the necessary consensus on economic and social improvements to correct at least the worst effects of the economic crisis. In all of these fields, and democratization in general, the parties and social organizations have something to say because they are forces that represent the country's sectors. They have to join the process by presenting their views on these subjects.

[Reporter] If anything has slipped your mind, you can now express it.

[Samayoa] We will reopen this process optimistically and responsibly. The message we have for our people is that they must be watchful, yet optimistic, because this reopening of the negotiations process is an achievement by all. We must realize that difficult and complex work is still needed to reach a consensus and an agreement. It is necessary for political and social forces to participate actively so we can successfully complete this process.

Ties With Nicaragua 'May' Resume Under Chamorro

PA3103125790 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1223 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Relations between El Salvador and Nicaragua, which were broken at the end of 1989, may be restored after President-elect Violeta Chamorro takes office. Deputy Foreign Minister Orlando Valdivieso said that El Salvador, the offended party, broke off all relations with the Sandinist Government in response to Daniel Ortega's attitude toward the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Valdivieso also alluded to the possible designation within days of a Salvadoran ambassador to Panama. He explained that relations with the canal country are uncertain.

Cristiani Criticized for Statement on Death Squads

PA0104205290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1641 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Apr (DPA)—Msgr. Ricardo Urioste, vicar of the San Salvador Archbishopric, today criticized the statements made by President Alfredo Cristiani during his one-week tour in Venezuela, which ended on 31 March, because the statements could be construed as justification for the existence of "death squads in El Salvador."

Msgr. Urioste criticized the statements during today's homily at mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, where he replaced the heads of the archbishopric, Msgr. Arturo Rivera y Damas and Msgr. Gregorio Rosa Chavez, who are out of the country.

Urioste asked how President Cristiani could have said in Venezuela that "the death squads" exist because there are guerrillas in El Salvador. "One gets the idea from the statements that the intention is to justify the existence of those groups—the death squads—in El Salvador," Urioste remarked.

Msgr. Urioste demanded more government attention to the social strata of his country, in which most members do not have money "to drink milk or purchase medicine because the price is too high."

Meanwhile, the nongovernment Human Rights Commission of El Salvador (CDHES) also criticized Cristiani. "With his statements he is justifying the existence of the 'death squads,'" said Clelia Medrano.

Truce Declared for Vaccination Campaign

PA0204021290 Paris AFP in Spanish 0112 GMT 2 April 90

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Apr (AFP)—The Salvadoran guerrillas and Army declared a truce in their hostilities on Sunday, 1 April to facilitate a vaccination campaign for the entire country, official and rebel sources reported today.

The cease-fire was arranged weeks ago by the Catholic Church. Moreover, Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas participated in this effort, and brought this issue to the attention of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) General Command.

The rebels, as during similar campaigns over the past 6 years, agreed to the church petition. Meanwhile, the army announced that it would put its vehicles at the service of the vaccination campaign.

The campaign seeks to immunize from contagious diseases about 500,000 people, which include the newborn and youths of up to 14 years old, pregnant women, and women of fertile age.

Salvadoran Deputy Health Minister Gustavo Argueta told AFP that the government expects to eliminate measles and poliomyelitis by the end of 1990.

On 1 April, 17,500 Health Ministry employees distributed in 1,973 health posts throughout the country were mobilized, including conflict ridden areas where the Red Cross sends brigades to attend to peasants.

Agop Kayayan, the UNICEF representative in Central America, said that this organization is providing technical assistance, equipment, and materiel for the vaccination campaign.

Kayayan praised the fact that amid the war, it is possible in El Salvador to carry out campaigns, which cover 70 percent of the population, to prevent diseases such as measles, tetanus, poliomyelitis, and others.

Guatemala

CRN, URNG Sign Agreement on Peace Process

PA3003125290 Paris AFP in Spanish 1138 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Oslo, 30 Mar (AFP)—An agreement to "continue the peace process" was signed this morning in Oslo between representatives of the National Reconciliation Commission [CRN] of Guatemala and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), well informed sources have reported.

This agreement will permit the beginning of "real and lasting negotiations" to end the 30-year conflict that has disrupted the country, the same sources added. The two Guatemalan delegations, each composed of three members, arrived this week in the Norwegian capital and began talks on 29 March.

The heads of each delegation expressed their "satisfaction" at the end of the agreement, the sources added.

Representatives of the CRN and the URNG met twice before, in Madrid in 1987 and in Costa Rica in 1989, but failed to reach any agreement.

'Text' of Agreement

PA3003145190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1338 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Oslo, 30 Mar (AFP)—An agreement to "continue the peace process" was signed here this morning between representatives of the National Reconciliation Commission [CRN] of Guatemala and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG).

The agreement was signed by Jorge Serrano Elias, Mario Permuth, and Eduardo Villatoro on behalf of the CRN, and by Luis Becker Guzman, Francisco Villagran, and Jorge E. Rosal on behalf of the URNG.

Following is the complete text of the agreement:

Basic agreement in search of peace by political means

The delegation of the CRN, acting with the full support of the Guatemalan Government and in keeping with the duties of reconciliation assigned to it by the Esquipulas II agreement, and the delegation of the URNG, with the total support of its general command, met from 26 to 30 March 1990 with the express will of finding paths to peacefully solve the national problems through political means. Both parties, recognizing that the basic objective is to achieve reconciliation among the Guatemalans to overcome national problems, agreed to begin a serious process that will culminate in securing peace and perfecting functional and participative democracy in Guatemala.

By common agreement both delegations will proceed to carry out:

Goodwill efforts

In keeping with the spirit of the Esquipulas II agreement, the CRN will explore the viability of carrying out the activities referred to in this agreement to search for peace. Making use of its good offices and in agreement with the URNG, Msgr Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, CRN president, is appointed conciliator. The duties of the conciliator will be to propose initiatives to all the parties, make efforts to maintain dialogue and negotiation activities, invigorate the process, and sum up the points of agreement and disagreement that may emerge between the two parties. The conciliator will also have the power to propose initatives and solutions for discussion and approval, as well as other functions that will enable the proper fulfillment of the objectives.

The CRN and the URNG agree to ask UN Secretary General Dr. Javier Perez de Cuellar to observe the activities to be carried out and to serve as guarantor of the fulfillment of the agreements and commitments acquired in this document.

Activities To Implement

Both delegations agree to implement activities that will create the conditions in which peace and the improvement of democracy can be fully accomplished.

a. A meeting will be held between representatives of political parties of Guatemala and the URNG. The CRN and URNG, by agreement, will create the conditions to ensure that this meeting takes place. The parties will make the necessary efforts to ensure that the meeting is held in the latter half of May 1990.

b. The CRN, by common agreement with the URNG, will establish mechanisms to hold, preferrably in June 1990, the necessary number of meetings between the URNG and representatives of popular, church, and business segments of the country, as well as other political groups. These meeting will be held to find solutions to national problems.

c. Talks will be held between representatives—with decision-making power—of the government, the Guatemalan Army, and the URNG General Command on a date to be set by common agreement to find a political solution to the domestic armed conflict. The CRN will participate in these meetings for verification purposes in keeping with the duties assigned to it by the Esquipulas II accord.

Reaction to Agreement

PA3003175190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1543 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Various Guatemalan official, political, and religious sectors reacted with satisfaction and optimism today to the agreement reached in Oslo between the government and the guerrillas. The agreement commits all the forces of the country to seek peace through political means.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias told ACAN-EFE today that "the results from Oslo fill us with hope and prove that the only way to achieve peace in Guatemala is through dialogue.

Representatives of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) and of the National Reconciliation Commission (CRN), backed by Vinicio Cerezo's government, signed the "Oslo agreement" after four days of negotiations in the Norwegian capital.

Both parts agreed to a possible meeting, in the second half of May, between political parties and representatives of all the political and social forces of this country.

The foreign minister said that "President Vinicio Cerezo always kept himself up to date on the negotiations, which were held with his approval. He is now waiting for the official delegation's return to receive more details."

Government spokeswoman Claudia Arenas stressed that the agreement reached in Oslo is the result of the Guatemalan president's effort to reach peace through dialogue, saying: "Ever since he took office, President Cerezo has insisted that the guerrillas should lay down their weapons and participate in the country's political process."

On several occasions, Cerezo "invited" the rebel leaders to lay down their weapons and give up the armed

struggle as a means of achieving power. The guerrillas have responded by calling for "full" guarantees that their rights will be respected when they become incorporated into the country's political life.

Arenas added that, according to the initial reports received by the Guatemalan Government, the dates for the talks between members of the Army, the government, and the guerrillas, with the CRN serving as moderator, must now be set "by common agreement."

For Mario Solorzano, leader of the opposition Democratic Socialist Party, "the decision is now in the hands of the Army," because it will be the military command that must decide the extent of an agreement with the guerrillas "without the guerrillas having to surrender their weapons as a prior condition."

"The time has come to end the 30-year conflict that has only brought bloodshed, pain, and suffering to thousands of Guatemalan homes," he said.

Guatemalan Archbishop Prospero Penados del Barrios said he was "satisfied and happy" over the agreements reached in Oslo, "because it is indispensable that we live in peace."

"We must view the example of Nicaragua, where President Daniel Ortega permitted not only the holding of free elections but also the dialogue with the contras," the head of the Catholic Church of the country stated.

He added that "we have prayed a lot for the dialogue with the guerrilla groups to be effective and successful, and I am sure that God has heard these prayers."

"For the moment," said an officer on duty, the Army is abstaining from commenting on the agreements reached in the Norwegian capital today.

The agreement adopted today in the presence of Norwegian Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik was signed by Jorge Serrano Elias, Eduardo Villatoro, and Mario Permouth on behalf of the CRN. The document was signed by Francisco Villagran, Luis Becker Guzman, and Jorge Rosal on behalf of the guerrillas.

The meeting was sponsored by the World Lutheran Federation, which after several contacts in Guatemala chose Oslo as the site of the meeting.

This is the second meeting to be held between the CRN and the URNG since August 1988 in Costa Rica, after a first attempt to reach a rapprochement failed in Madrid in October 1987 due to a "lack of understanding" between the parties.

URNG Claims 17 Army Casualties in San Marcos

PA3003204990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1903 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) claimed today that it inflicted 17 casualties during an attack by its forces against military units in the northwestern department of San Marcos.

The URNG states in a communique that on 29 March the rebels attacked a military post in Las Marimbas village, Esquipulas (San Marcos), and raided an arms depot.

The report adds that the guerrillas occupied the command and control center of the military unit, killing an officer and radio operator.

Other rebel units killed two members of military intelligence, known as the G-2, according to the report.

The URNG states that its forces inflicted a total of 17 Army casualties and seized a machine gun and a communications radio from the arms depot.

The army has not commented on the communique by the URNG, which groups together three rebel organizations that operate in this Central American country.

The guerrillas and representatives of the National Reconciliation Commission (CRN), with the support of the government, signed an agreement today in Oslo in which the Guatemalan forces are committed to search for peace through political means.

Tortured Bodies of 3 Kidnapped Students Found

PA0104014790 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1716 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 Mar (DPA)—The bodies of three university students who were kidnapped by heavily armed men in Guatemala City on Monday were found on a highway 102 km from the capital, relatives announced today.

The bodies showed signs of having been subjected to cruel torture and strangulation, the sources said. A fourth kidnapped student has not yet been located.

The kidnapping took place in the downtown sector of the capital as the students were collecting funds for a student comic demonstration. Many people were present, but could do nothing in the face of the armed men's threats.

The members of the death squad [el escuadron de la muerte] quickly forced the students into a van and took off for an unknown destination.

This multiple assassination, which has shocked the public, particularly the universitary sector, adds to murders and other crimes that occur each day and are not resolved by the authorities.

Honduras

Leftist Rebel Group Attacks, Wounds U.S. Soldiers

PA3103225690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2158 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—At least six U.S. soldiers were wounded, three of them seriously, when a presumed Honduran guerrilla group attacked with gunfire today a bus in which 28 U.S. military men were traveling, official sources have reported.

The attack occurred between 1300 and 1330 (1700 and 1730 GMT) near the village of Amarateca, about 20 km north of Tegucigalpa. The Morazanist Front for the Liberation of Honduras [FMLH] called Radio America to claim credit for the attack.

Official sources have said that the bus was carrying a group of U.S. soldiers from Palmerola, in the country's central region, to the Honduran capital when it was attacked by surprise by an unidentified group of persons.

Most of the soldiers were not armed. Six of them were wounded, three seriously, according to information supplied by doctors of the Escuela Hospital, principal medical center of Tegucigalpa where the victims were taken.

Two of the soldiers underwent immediate surgery. One of them received a bullet wound to the head and his condition was described as "critical" by the Honduran medical personnel who attended to him.

The rest of the wounded and those who escaped unharmed were transferred in two U.S. helicopters that flew in from Palmerola, permanent base of the Bravo Task Force, which totals 1,200 U.S. servicemen.

U.S. diplomatic personnel refused to comment on the incident, the fourth of its kind in the past four years, saying that the names of the wounded and the following investigation will be announced "subsequently."

Concerning the identity of the attackers, only an unofficial version is available from Radio America, one of whose newsmen received a call in which the FMLH claimed credit for the attack.

The FMLH is a leftist political-military organization that emerged in the northern coast of Honduran in 1980 and which has kept a very low profile in irregular activities.

In this Central American nation there has been a minimal existence of five very small leftist guerrilla organizations, which demand the departure of the U.S. troops based in Honduras.

The U.S. Army has an active presence in Honduran territory. Currently it is carrying out two military exercisees in the northern and southern parts of the country.

Army Investigating Attack

PA0104205990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran Armed Forces are carrying out an "exhaustive" investigation of the attack perpetrated on 31 March, presumably by a rebel organization, against a bus carrying 28 U.S. soldiers, seven of whom were wounded.

The attack took place between 0100 and 0130 (1700 and 1730 GMT) near the community of "Amarateca," 20 km north of Tegucigalpa, and responsibility was claimed through a telephone call to a Tegucigalpa radio station by the left-wing "Morazanist Front for the Liberation of Honduras," (FMLH).

An official Armed Forces communique published today condemned "the criminal action" and underscored that an investigation is under way to "control and capture the people who are responsible."

The Americans in the bus were coming from the port city of Tela on the Atlantic coast and were en route to Jamastran in the eastern part of the country, where they are carrying out "civic-military activities," according to government sources.

None of the soldiers was armed, and according to an American diplomat "they were dressed in sports clothes."

Among the wounded, two are in the intensive care unit at the Hospital School, the largest hospital in Tegucigalpa, following surgery.

The rest, including the wounded and the unharmed, were taken on 31 March by helicopters to Palmerola, a permanent U.S. base where 1,200 troops are stationed.

The FMLH, the presumed perpetrator of the attack, is a left-wing political-military organization founded in 1980, which has not gained widespread publicity.

Since their installation in 1982, the American troops have endured several attacks in Honduran territory, and the 31 March attack is the third attack with firearms on a bus transporting American soldiers.

Callejas on Contras, Elections, Other Issues

PA0204005290 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Interview with President Rafael Leonardo Callejas by unidentified reporters in San Jose; date not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Callejas] ....based on that, with firmness, the rank and file of the counterrevolution will be transferred to Nicaraguan territory.

[Reporter] What will be done with those groups that are not willing to return to Nicaragua?

[Callejas] We will primarily wait for the response of the UN organizations, the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] and ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America], to appeals to begin the demobilization and disarmament process as soon as possible. We will wait and see what happens, then we will act according to our interests and, logically, we will implement the agreement according to the country's legal framework and mandates.

I want to emphasize that the Honduran people are very happy about the agreement reached by the counterrevolution's forces because we have had armed groups in the country for 10 years. The war is over, a peace process has started in Nicaragua, and elections were held there. The Esquipulas peace process was the origin of all this and the Nicaraguan elections are a genuine expression of the process. Consequently, there is no reason for us to have armed conflicts and we do not want more armed groups in our country—except those stipulated in our constitution, meaning our own Armed Forces.

[Reporter] Will the presence of U.S. bases in Honduras still be necessary after the [words indistinct] in Nicaragua?

[Callejas] There are no permanent U.S. military bases in Honduras. What we have carried out are military exercises based on the 1954 reciprocal assistance agreement. We hope that the Nicaraguan process will follow the route we all want. We also hope that there is a way to reduce the number of offensive weapons in Central America. With that in mind, we will analyze the issue in due time. If circumstances warrant, we will discuss the level of the U.S. presence and joint military exercises in our territory. That option is open, and we feel it is no longer imperative to have the same level of military presence in Central America, because it is too high for the region's geographic size and population levels.

[Reporter] Mr. President, regarding your talks with the president-elect of Costa Rica [words indistinct], what were the results of [words indistinct]?

[Callejas] I have close personal ties with the president-elect of Costa Rica. The visit was marked by our confidence and rapprochement [words indistinct] ruler of the nation, Honduras has friends and admirers among the Costa Rican people. Personally speaking, he has all our affection and—in the measure that our limited resources allow us—we will offer our help and friendship so that he may have a better government. We hope that Costa Rica's democracy will maintain its historical leadership. We will welcome anything it can do for Central America's welfare.

[Reporter] Mr. President, a few minutes ago, the incoming Costa Rican president said that Honduras' contribution to demobilizing the contras has been very positive, but there is some concern about the Salvadoran guerrillas. What is your opinion?

[Callejas] We share that concern, and that has been included in the San Isidro de Coronado agreement, where the five Central American presidents condemned the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front forces. We consider Central America to be on the path to achieving peace.

Therefore, there should not be any ideological confrontations that lead to bloodshed. As President Cristiani said, let us hope that the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas will hold a dialogue under the auspices of the UN secretary general. This is very important to us, and we hope it is done quickly. We are all interested in this, particularly the countries that have been somewhat involved in the conflict. We hope it will come to an end, once and for all, so that the living conditions of our people improve.

[Reporter] To that effect, what is the key point Honduras will present at the forthcoming summit?

[Callejas] If the summit is held—that is, if the appropriate date is found—it will review events that have taken place following the agreements signed at San Isidro de Coronado and Esquipulas. With an open mentality, we believe that this summit will discuss the true situation of the armed conflicts in the region.

[Reporter] What subjects did you discuss with President Arias?

[Callejas] Yesterday, we decorated him as an act of recognition by the people and government of Honduras of a man who has contributed to peace and democracy in the region. Today, I will accompany him to dedicate a school that will train people on the care of tropical forests. We also discussed possible dates for holding the forthcoming presidential summit prior to the end of March or early in April.

[Reporter] You are concluding your Central American tour. What is the result of your tour after having visited Guatemala, El Salvador, and our country?

[Callejas] It was a very positive tour. We achieved a rapprochement. It was also a good opportunity to thank the Central American presidents who attended my inauguration. We expressed our wishes for strengthening ties so that together we can hope for a better future by learning from the experiences of others. For example, there is the example of Costa Rica that has developed thanks to a clear concept of what should be the goal of a society.

Nicaragua

President-Elect Names Special Commission Members

PA3003235690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2243 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Office of President-elect Violeta Barrios de Chamorro in Managua on 30 March]

[Text] Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta de Chamorro reports to the Nicaraguan people and the international community that today, 30 March, she appointed her

representatives to the special transition commission, called for in the third point of the Toncontin agreement for the general demobilization of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN].

The representatives of the Nicaraguan president-elect are: Dr. Leopoldo Navarro Bermudez, who will head the commission, and Dr. Roberto Ferrey. Dr. Navarro is a distinguished doctor, humanitarian, and politician, who, in the past, has been president of the Nicaraguan Red Cross. Dr. Ferrey is a politician and attorney with well-known professional credentials.

Mrs. Violeta de Chamorro hopes that the RN will appoint its representatives to the special transition commission as soon as possible in order to immediately begin the implementation of the Toncontin agreement. In this way, the process of demobilization of the RN forces will advance rapidly, strengthing the objectives of total peace in Nicaragua and national reconciliation among all the Nicaraguans.

The Nicaraguan president-elect also asks the appropriate governments to immediately approve the humanitarian aid that is needed to facilitate the economic and social conditions for the demobilization of the RN, in accordance with point four of the Toncontin agreement. Point four of the Toncontin agreement states: The new government headed by Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro promises to ask the appropriate governments for humanitarian aid for RN members as well as for the medical infrastructure for the proper treatment of the victims of the conflict during the demobilization process.

Contras Select Delegates

PA0104211690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1810 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The Contra General Staff, refuged in Honduras, announced today that they have selected their delegates for the "special transition commission" that is to negotiate their future with Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro.

A spokesman for the Nicaraguan contras told ACAN-EFE that the delegates chosen are Luis Armando Sovalbarro (Commander "Johnny"), Aristides Sanchez, Bohanerges Matus, and Enrique Zelaya.

The "commission" is completed by Chamorro's delegates: former contra Roberto Ferrey and Leopoldo Navarro.

The source stressed that "we are ready to restart in Tegucigalpa the search for adequate guarantees so that our fighters can reenter Nicaraguan civilian society."

The "special transition commission" is part of the agreements included in the so-called "Toncontin Agreement," signed on 23 March in the Honduran capital that made the anti-Sandinist demobilization and disarmament official, no later than 20 April.

There are about 6,000 armed contras accompanied by 30,000 civilians and 21,000 refugees in Honduran territory.

President Ortega Ill; Preparing for Summit

PA0204004990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2333 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Managua, 1 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega is sick, but he is working on the organization of the seventh Central American two-day summit, which begins tomorrow in the Montelimar Ocean Resort, 60 km west of Managua, it was officially reported today.

This was announced this afternoon by Jaime Wheelock, agricultural development and agrarian reform minister, who did not elaborate on what ails the Sandinist president.

President Ortega was to speak today before a meeting of peasants of the National Federation of Cooperatives of Nicaragua, but was unable to do so because of his illness.

"In reality, the president (Ortega) is a little ill, but is trying to muster all of his strength to meet the commitments of 2 April," said Wheelock, who stood in for the Sandinist president before the meeting of peasants organized in agriculture-livestock cooperatives.

Wheelock said that the Nicaraguan Government hopes that the forum of presidents will support Nicaragua's position "that it is indispensable and essential that the contras demobilize and disarm immediately for the peaceful transition of power from one government to another."

Ortega Requests Pardon for Former EPS Members

PA0104030190 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2019 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Managua, 29 Mar (DPA)—President Daniel Ortega today asked the National Assembly to pardon 887 prisoners who are former members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the Interior Ministry who have been jailed for various crimes.

Official sources told DPA that the president's request was put to a vote before the plenary session of the legislative assembly, which instructed the assembly's human rights commission to voice an opinion on the proposal that will be discussed the week of 1 April.

Ortega also presented a draft law that seeks to reduce the automonous legal power of Nicaraguan universities. Autonomy is provided for by the constitution of that Central American nation.

According to documents presented by Ortega, the draft law on the universities' autonomy seeks to develop and regulate the principles established in Article 125 of the constitution which guarantee the "financial, institutional, and administrative autonomy" of the universities.

The draft law also adds that teaching or academic staff autonomy should be understood as the powers the universities have for appointing and removing their teaching and academic staff, whereas administrative autonomy implies that each university can freely organize its various governing bodies.

Reportage on Reaction to Returning Armed Contras

U.S.'Ordered' Contras To Return

PA0104144790 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The U.S. Government has ordered the contras to go into Nicaragua to force their recognition by the incoming government of Violeta Barrios. The Honduran and Costa Rican presidents are also involved in this maneuver, which mocks the Toncontin Agreement announced on 23 March by Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. Everything seems to indicate that the most warmongering forces of the United States have not made up their minds on the demobilization of the contras or given up on the idea that the contras are an option for Nicaragua.

During the week that began on 19 March, over 90 percent of the heavily armed counterrevolutionaries entered Nicaraguan territory when it became apparent there would be an agreement between the contra chieftain Ruben and Violeta Barrios' government.

According to a contra chief, the contras will use the security zones established by the Toncontin Agreement as their bastions to remain armed inside Nicaragua. This situation could last up to 90 days and would presumably lead to Violeta Barrios' official recognition of the armed contras.

The Toncontin Agreement specifies 20 April as the deadline for the simultaneous demobilization of the contras in Honduras and Nicaragua. The contras will then gather in enclaves.

[Begin recording of Major General Joaquin Cuadra, chief of the Sandinist People's Army General Staff] The security zones where they will be grouped inside Nicaragua are just temporary, because this is for the purpose of the demobilization. In the second place, there is also the possibility that the ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] forces will receive the contras' weapons, and immediately thereafter the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] will receive the civilian, disarmed contras and relocate them somewhere in the national territory where they will then be able to join normal civilian life. [end recording]

The security zones will be small areas in places that are readily accessible and already have a certain infrastructure. The decision to bring the contras into Nicaragua is the latest order sent by the U.S. Government to the Honduran and Costa Rican presidents, who are bringing these cards under their sleeves to the forthcoming presidential summit.

RN Insists on Keeping Weapons

PA3003160590 Paris AFP in Spanish 1021 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Esteli, Nicaragua, 30 Mar (AFP)—Contra guerrillas, who are convinced the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] could hold the government of Violeta de Chamorro "hostage," have announced their decision to keep their weapons until there is a general disarmament in Nicaragua.

This was announced today by five commanders of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN - Contras) who head a column of some 150 men who were controlling a big stretch of the highway from Yali to Condega in the northern part of the country, near the Pan-American Highway. [passage omitted]

Commanders Chispero, Waracha, Managuita, Cachito, and Mario, members of the San Jacinto Battalion, claim that the rebels support the demobilization agreements signed three months ago in Honduras. They warned, however, that there must be a dismantling of the Sandinists' war apparatus at the same time.

Although the demobilization agreements establish that the contras must relocate to enclaves as of 20 April to proceed to disarm, the contra leaders have said that to do so without there being a "general disarmament" would be "suicidal." They recalled that the Sandinist government, after its electoral defeat, distributed weapons to its supporters in towns and villages.

Commander Chispero, although he claimed to admire the president-elect, insisted that she "must respect the decision of the combatants" and force the Sandinists to turn in their weapons. "If we guaranteed the victory of the National Opposition Union (UNO), then it must give us guarantees," he said, noting that he could not see the contras turning in their weapons earlier than the Sandinists.

The transfer of power agreed to by the incoming and outgoing government last 27 March provides that the Armed Forces and law enforcement forces will be subordinate to civilian power and that all the weapons and military equipment must be in the hands of the constitutional army, which is the EPS.

Chispero reiterated, however, that as long as there is no "general disarmament," there will not be peace, because "our position is to continue to struggle until the Sandinists leave." Therefore, Commander Waracha said, "we will not disarm and the only alternative is to continue to struggle, because that way we will prevent a coup from being staged against Dona Violeta." [passage omitted]

RN 'Optimistic' About Toncontin

PA0204030290 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 26 Mar 90 p 10

[Report by Luis Alonso Gomez]

[Text] Yamales, El Paraiso—"We feel very optimistic about the agreements signed in Toncontin and we have no objections to returning to Nicaragua on the agreed upon date," one of the members of the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) leadership has said.

The commander in charge of the medical and rehabilitation aspects of the RN humanitarian program, who is known only as "Dr. Jaime," said that "we can assure the Nicaraguan people that we are united to achieve reconciliation and peace under dignified conditions of freedom that will guarantee the unity of all Nicaraguans."

However, he feels that "demobilization" is not the proper term. For the RN, he said, that operation began with the Sapoa agreements "when we had to fall back to this country, entirely due to our peaceful wishes."

This move was made "as a conscientious response to stop shedding blood and fighting with adolescents and poorly-trained militia members, while an elite army was protecting the interests of a government that deceived the people and divided the Nicaraguan people," said the RN commander and doctor.

"Dr. Jaime" said that the new government should guarantee the safety of the fighters and their families when they come back to Nicaragua.

The new government should also "allow the RN to activley participate in the reconstruction of the country and anyone who observes the agreements will understand that our fighters deeply love our people," he said.

However, the rebel commander assured that the RN is afraid the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) will unleash a campaign of war to destabilize the path to peace.

"Should that happen, the RN will take up arms with all its strength to guarantee the people's will that was expressed through the elections," he warned.

The leader said that "the majority of the fighters, 90 percent, is already in Nicaragua, ready to defend the reconciliation process," although according to people of that area, there are still about 8,000 men at arms.

Until a short time ago, there were between 10,000 to 12,000 contras in the Yamales area.

He added that "one cannot trust Daniel Ortega, as he has been saying what he wants for the past 10 years and just seven days ago he said he would stage a coup d'etat if UNO [National Opposition Union] and the RN reached an agreement. He also said he would recognize them in the same manner UNO recognized him, his political organization, and the armed forces."

"For us, it is inadmissible that the EPS and State Security—which depend on the Interior Ministry—continue to mock the people. They cannot become the Nicaraguan National Army just because Ortega asks for it. That is a political and military tactic on his part to remain in power," he said.

Optimistic, yet skeptical, "Dr. Jaime" voiced his optimism, but at the same time he pointed out that there is skepticism among the fighters in view of the military operations of the EPS and the "siege and annihilation they plan to carry out."

The RN plays an important role in this struggle, with sweat and blood, and out of respect for the role played by the fighters, we should prevent the war from worsening, he noted.

Likewise, the rebel commander and doctor said that the RN has requested establishing temporary areas of safety for the troops and their families, as part of efforts to achieve peace.

These areas—which are not enclaves—he explained, "should be in the center, north, south, and east so that both parties involved in this struggle can gradually disarm."

The RN pointed out that "the EPS and the current constitution are unconstitutional [as published] because it was promulgated, imposed, and directed by the regime of terror of the nine commanders to keep their political and military power."

The Nicaraguan people "cannot legitimize such an absurd thing that was not approved by the people," he stressed.

When consulted about the lawsuit filed by the Association of Coffe Producers about compensation for the damage caused by the contras, Dr. Jaime said that the producers are not really thinking about the people residing in the area where the contras have remained.

"What will happen when we are no longer here?" he wondered. "How about all the infrastructure and medical assistance they are now receiving from the RN?"

To conclude, Dr. Jaime said that "these people should know that our presence here has prevented the advance of communism in Central America. We were the ones who risked our lives, and just as we are grateful to the Honduran people, the Hondurans should also feel grateful toward us."

Vice-President on Armed Contras

PA0104172590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1540 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Interview with Vice President Sergio Ramirez by Esteban Solis at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport in Managua—live]

[Text] [Ramirez] I do not see how there can be stability in Nicaragua if the counterrevolutionaries remain on Nicaraguan territory. We will not have peace as long as the contra forces in Honduras enter Nicaragua armed

and can later—as one of them said—set themselves up as guarantors of the democratic transition, for as many months as they decide on. This is totally unacceptable.

[Solis] There have been some very contradictory reports to that effect, sir. International news agencies have interviewed several contra leaders who are saying they will not disarm until after 25 April; in other words, after Mrs Violeta Chamorro takes office. What is happening?

[Ramirez] The Toncontin agreement exists, and it must be executed to the letter. The Toncontin agreement states that the disarmament must take place prior to 25 April. We are worried that many of these contras are leaving their camps in Yamales on the other side of the border and infiltrating Nicaraguan territory with weapons. Some of them may be attempting to create a de facto situation by entering Nicaragua with weapons and not surrendering them until they decide to do so. That is not stated in the agreements. The ONUCA [UN Observer Group in Central America] and the CIAV [International Commission of Support and Verification] have been expressly mandated to disarm the contras and take their weapons. I hope this will be widely discussed at the Central American presidential meeting. I hope this will be ratified so that all the agreements can be executed, thus ending the threat of war against Nicaragua. Otherwise, the question will remain as to whether there will be war or peace in the country.

[Solis] Doctor, how can this presidential summit influence the solution of the Salvadoran conflict? What is your view of the talks scheduled to take place in Geneva?

[Ramirez] I believe that the issue of peace in El Salvador will be discussed at the summit. Nicaragua insists that the negotiating process must continue in El Salvador. Unfortunately, I am not fully aware of the contents of the Oslo [as heard] agreement. I have a very superficial knowledge of that document. However, before leaving office, and especially at this summit, President Ortega will do everything within his reach to help the Salvadoran peace process to continue so that an in-depth negotiation can be achieved and, like Nicaragua, El Salvador can enjoy definitive peace.

Cesar Insists on Disarmament

PA3003142290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1243 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Report by Jose Antonio Maillo]

[Text] Managua, 28 Mar (ACAN - EFE)—Alfredo Cesar, main adviser of Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro, said today that by 20 April, five days before the new government takes office, there will be no armed contras, either inside or outside the country.

In an interview with ACAN-EFE and another news agency, Cesar confirmed that the "Toncontin agreement," signed on 23 March by delegations of the rebels and the new government, makes clear that the weapons will have been turned over by that date.

Nevertheless, his opinion contrasts with the remarks made to ACAN - EFE by Spanish General Agustin Quesada, chief of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), who refused to set dates for the contras' total disarmament and demobilization.

Gen. Quesada said the surrender of weapons in Honduran territory is easy, "but inside Nicaragua it is more complex because the security zones where the Resistance members will be grouped must first be delimited and a real cease-fire must be ordered by the Sandinists and the rebels."

Cesar, a former member of the contra directorate, said that even though the disarmament will be carried out at the latest by 20 April, five days before Violeta Chamorro takes office, the contras' reintegration into civilian life will take longer.

"The reintegration must be carried out by the International Commission of Support and Verification, CIAV, formed by the United Nations and the OAS, and no dates have been set for this," Chamorro's adviser added.

Cesar added that Antonio Lacayo, special envoy of Violeta Chamorro, and rebel Commander "Ruben" (Oscar Sovalbarro), the signatories of the document, agreed that the contra demobilization process began on 23 March, the same day the Toncontin agreement was signed, and its first phase—disarmament—will end by 20 April.

Regarding the absence of Nicaraguan Resistance Commander "Franklin" (Israel Galeano), chief of the insurgents' staff, at the signing of the agreement, Cesar said he did not understand the commander's attitude.

"His obligation as chief of staff of the contras was to be there, and his absence has caused uneasiness in both Honduras and Nicaragua. I think he made a mistake. He should accept this agreement and lead his troops in the demobilization," Cesar said.

The president-elect's main adviser does not believe that a "hard-line" sector is emerging among the rebels who would refuse to demobilize and disarm, "because most of the fighters are peasants who want peace."

According to Cesar, who said he will be the new president of the National Assembly, "because I have the support of a majority of votes," the Toncontin agreement is "historic" because it ends the war in Nicaragua.

Cesar said: "There are three key dates in the search for peace in Nicaragua. One is when the Central American presidents met for the first time in Esquipulas, Guatemala, in August 1987, after seven years of war, and urged the insurgent forces to participate in the political process."

"The second," he added, "was in March 1988, when the contras met with high-ranking Sandinist officers in Sapoa, Nicaragua and they agreed to end large-scale military operations. The third date was the signing of the

Toncontin agreement, which established that there is no reason to continue the war."

"In Toncontin (the name of the airport of the Honduran capital where the agreement was signed), the resistance definitely accepted the demobilization and deadlines were set, and even though operational problems might exist, the fact is that a political willingness to end the war has been expressed," Cesar stressed.

In this regard, Gen. Quesada said on 27 March that the operational problems are due to the difficulty that the contra fighters in Nicaragua might have to move to the security zones where they must surrender their weapons. "Nicaragua is very big and some fighters might be far from the security zones that must be delimited," the Spanish general added.

While President Daniel Ortega recently said there are between 4,000 to 6,000 contras in Nicaragua, Aristides Sanchez, political leader of the rebels, estimated that 10,000 rebels are inside Nicaragua.

Last night, the UN Security Council expanded the ONUCA's mandate for the demobilization of the contras in Honduras.

ONUCA Chief on Demobilization

PA3003190290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1628 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Managua, 27 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Spanish General Agustin Quesada, chief of the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA), said today that the demobilization of the "contras" in Honduras and Nicaragua should "be practically simultaneous."

Quesada has been in Managua since last night and has met with Major Joaquin Cuadra, the Sandinist Army's chief of staff, with whom he discussed the demobilization of the 12,000 rebel fighters stationed in Honduras as well as those who are active in Nicaragua.

The ONUCA chief, who travels today to Tegucigalpa, where he will probably meet with the "contra" leaders, told the Nicaraguan press that the Sandinist Army had promised all the help that is needed to demobilize the rebels who are in Nicaragua. Delegations from the future Nicaraguan Government and the armed resistance agreed at a meeting in Honduras on Friday to begin a general demobilization of the rebels, "starting with the disarmament of those who are still in Honduras, by 20 April at the latest." The two delegations requested help from the ONUCA and the International Commission of Support and Verification (CIAV) in complying with the agreement.

The rebels who are inside Nicaragua will be placed in "enclaves," under the protection and watchful eyes of the UN peace forces.

General Cuadra said that "these enclaves should not be numerous or geographically extensive, but rather small non-isolated territories, with an adequate infrastructure."

ONUCA, whose mandate will probably be extended at the request of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, has the mission of receiving the arms from the contra fighters.

The CIAV, created after the Central American presidents' agreements in Tela (Honduras) in August 1989, will carry out the relocation of the rebels in Nicaragua or third countries.

Armed Contras Reported Returning To Country

PA0104024390 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Mar 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Hundreds of armed contras are infiltrating into Nicaragua from their military base in Yamales to avoid their immediate demobilization. They are heading to the Central Atlantic Region and Jinotega and Chontales Departments, contra spokesman Alejandro Acevedo has confirmed. Moreover, Oscar Sobalvarro, known as "Commander Ruben," one of the persons who signed the "Toncontin Agreement" with delegates of the new Nicaraguan government—reportedly to accelerate the process of disarming the contras and their return to Nicaragua—said that is how the contras are keeping their commitments." [quotation marks as published]

"We want to hand over our weapons in Nicaragua because if there is going to be democracy in our country, we will exchange our weapons for plowshares to till the land," he added, giving an interpretation that is at odds with the agreement he signed on 23 March together with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and delegates of the future government.

"Ruben" and Acevedo noted that "only civilians and victims of the war who need international aid," are remaining in the Yamales camp, a military compound located in eastern Honduras 14 km from the Nicaraguan border. Within three weeks, no one will be left, they indicated.

Although the UN Observer Group for Central America (ONUCA) received the official mandate to carry out the contra demobilization, Acevedo said that the contras "cannot be forced to stay in Honduras, since they are entitled to decide their fate." The ONUCA force has been in Honduras since December and has yet to receive a single weapon from the contras.

The contra spokesman said that those who are infiltrating into Nicaragua "do not have offensive plans," but noted that "they are prepared to use their weapons to repel any attack by the Sandinists."

Honduran opposition leaders warned of the danger that ONUCA may not find weapons or contras when the operation to demobilize the contras begins in April.

"We are not waiting for the UN forces. Everyone is leaving for Nicaragua," "Ruben" remarked.

RN Spokesman Denies Reports

PA0104180390 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Mar 90 p 4

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The fighters of the Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, have few weapons and little ammunition. It is not true that they have already begun to return to Nicaragua, RN spokesman Alejandro Acevedo stated yesterday. He was referring to published reports that the contras are leaving for their country with their weapons.

The RN spokesman reiterated that the report is false and that the contra fighters do not want to fall prey to the "savagery" of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, which does not respect the ceasefire despite the signing of a formal agreement. Acevedo added that the rebels have few weapons and those they still have are in bad condition. Moreover, ammunition is scarce, since each contra has only about 20 to 30 rounds.

Acevedo asked the Sandinists to stop encouraging clashes because they put the demobilization that begins on 20 April in jeopardy. The demobilization will continue past 25 April with the contras' return, provided that the right guarantees exist.

Defense Ministry on 27-29 Mar Contra Actions

PA3103134590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The contra groups which have recently infiltrated the country coming from Honduras continue to violate the government's unilateral cease-fire. The Defense Ministry has reported that the contras carried out several attacks on Sandinist People's Army [EPS] positions on 27, 28, and 29 March. Most of the attacks took place in different zones of Jinotega Department, 6th Region, where five contras were killed and five EPS soldiers were wounded.

One of the attacks occurred in El Mojon, where members of the Juan Pablo Umanzor Battalion for Unconventional Warfare turned back approximately 200 contras, inflicting two deaths and an unspecified number of wounded.

Another group assassinated Jinotega businessman Alfredo Altamirano and attacked the house of a doctor who provides medical attention to the peasant community of La Montanita.

The bodies of seven contras, including the leader known as Managuita, were found yesterday in an area where EPS soldiers paying the local reserve members' payroll were attacked on 23 March. Managuita was wounded in combat and later died at the camp where his commander, Cachito, was stationed. Cachito was the one who led the attack, which resulted in the death of 12 soldiers and two civilians—a woman and her son—and the wounding of eight soldiers.

The contras abandoned six of their members near La Pavona and Las Colinas, Yali jurisdiction, Jinotega Department. Serum bags were still hanging from trees and were attached to the corpses. The seven bodies found yesterday bring up to 12 the number of contra casualties caused by the EPS detachment fighting back the criminal attack.

Contras Deny Responsibility for 23 Mar Ambush

PA3003190990 Paris AFP in Spanish 0755 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 26 Mar (AFP)—The anti-Sandinist "contras" on 26 March denied responsibility for a 23 March ambush in Northern Nicaragua that resulted in 13 dead, eight wounded, and two missing, most of whom were members of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS).

The Nicaraguan Resistance (RN-contras) asserted that "dictator (President Daniel) Ortega is blatantly lying" in rejecting the charges levelled by the president that the attack occurred on the very day the contras signed a demobilization accord.

"Actually, the EPS was the attacker," anti-Sandinists stated in a communique distributed the evening of 26 March in Tegucigalpa.

The contras stated that Ortega "has begun an attack" on the demobilization document they signed, "and they are interpreting this as an unconditional surrender accord, which is what those who could never defeat the democratic insurgency always wanted."

The document, in which the contras commit themselves to begin disarming and repatriating by 20 April at the latest, was signed by contra leaders, Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and representatives of the incoming government of Violeta de Chamorro.

The RN said that Ortega "only insists on a promise to disarm the combatants but has said nothing about a simultaneous and proportional disarmament of the armed forces loyal to the outgoing government, a closely monitored cease-fire, and the marking off of enclaves for the armed combatants while they wait for demobilization."

The contras also deny any disagreement within their ranks over the commitment they made by signing the document on 23 March.

"In view of these new distortions, the RN categorically rejects this disinformation campaign and reaffirms that the evolution prompted by the circumstances agreed upon with the new government in no way constitutes a surrender or defeat," the contras' communique added.

National Assembly Approves Housing, Property Laws

PA3003153190 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1220 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Finally, after a series of bitter debates, the National Assembly has approved the Housing Law and a law guaranteeing title rights to private citizens holding state lands.

After debates that lasted almost two days, the legislative branch approved both laws—27 articles in all—regarding guarantees on buildings occupied by private citizens or public agencies, as well as on land or lots currently classified as being occupied by squatters. (comodato precario).

Article Nine of the second law was bitterly debated by deputies who questioned the legality of land occupied after 25 February. Article Ten, which states that the current occupants of houses whose owners are abroad must become tenants once the owners file a lawsuit, was also broadly debated, given that it could incite violence between owners and tenants.

The deputy who most strongly defended the elimination of both articles and who participated the most in the debates on the law due to his vast experience on the subject was the legendary Domingo Sanchez, "Chaguitillo."

Assembly Approves Agrarian Property Protection

PA3103142690 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1206 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Yesterday, the National Assembly approved the agrarian property protection law, which allows more than 120,000 peasant families who have benefited from the agrarian reform process to use their land whichever way they like. The law, approved by most of the legislators, fully guarantees ownership rights to the peasants, as well as to individual producers, cooperatives, and Indian and Atlantic Coast communities, in accordance to what is established under Article 103 of the Constitution.

Article 2 was the most controversial due to its characteristics, but it was finally approved with some slight modifications, and it reads as follows:

Provisional and permanent agrarian reform land titles that have been handed to the beneficiaries of the agrarian reform process on the date this law is promulgated are the legal instruments that grant them the land, free of charge, the property on the land, and the full right to ownership and possession. Thus, any beneficiary shall be able to transfer, sell, pass down by inheritance, or carry out any type of business with his land.

New Government Will Return Seized Property

PA0104032490 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, Cosep, Gilberto Cuadra, said today that a group of UNO [National Opposition Union] lawyers are analyzing confiscation decrees for the purpose of having property returned to the former owners. According to the Cosep president, the new government will review cases of confiscated properties.

[Begin Cuadra recording] Within the spirit of justice that is prevailing, there are some cases in which Decree No. 3 was well applied. However, there are other cases that are not valid, except for some that were necessary due to very specific circumstances of the nation. The lawyers are analyzing these situations. If human rights were violated, as was the case with the decree on people who were absent for six months, these decrees will be abolished. The persons affected by these decrees will then have the right to make their claims. [end recording]

The statements by the Cosep president clearly show that the new government is planning to return the people's property to the Somozists.

The El Caracol Industry is an example of property that might be affected. Its former owners, Oscar and Melinda Campos, left the company in ruins and with a heavy mortagage. Now, they want to have their case reviewed.

Recently, a group of rich Nicaraguans in self-imposed exile demanded the new government return to them their confiscated property in exchange for their investing in Nicaragua.

Article Views UNO Transition Role

PA0104234690 Managua LA CRONICA in Spanish 22-28 Mar 90 p 8

[Article by Ivan Olivares B.: "Can UNO Do It or Not?"]

[Text] Nicaragua, immersed in a climate of transition after the 25 February election victory of the National Opposition Union [UNO], is now astir as the result of discussions on the possibility or impossibility of making changes proposed by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro as the main thrust of her government program. These changes include abolishing military service, reducing the number of EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops, expanding the Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ), privatizing national banks and foreign trade, and probably returning land to former owners.

Like everything else in Nicaragua, stands on these subjects are highly polarized. These stands range from lawyers who think that "there will be no trouble at all" to people who say flatly that "it is impossible to do these things because they are unconstitutional" to those who, disappointed, neither deny the possibility nor affirm the impossibility of carrying out the proposed reforms.

After presenting each particular case to distinguished professors and magistrates of our country, LA CRONICA found very diverse opinions. We will now present a summary of the replies received, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Constitution, on each of the following subjects:

Despite the opposition and chagrin of some Sandinist lawyers, the CSJ can be expanded according to Article 163 of the Constitution, which says that the CSJ will consist of at least seven magistrates. This leaves open the possibility of expanding the CSJ, because no upper limit has been established, although these lawyers have asserted that expansion of the CSJ by the president would constitute interference with the Judicial Branch by the Executive Branch. In practice, we have found that this was not the case, because the Constitution stipulates that magistrates will be chosen from a set of three names submitted by the president.

As can be seen, the Constitution itself makes provision for the procedure to appoint CSJ magistrates, which does away with the alleged unconstitutionality advanced by some of the persons consulted.

Spreading the CSJ into various divisions is the best that can be done, because it offers the best technical advantages and because it is the organizational method used in Central American tribunals. These divisions could be described as "civilian, administrative disputes and constitutional control, and criminal, with five members each," according to Dr. Roberto Ortiz Urbina, professor at UCA [Central American University] and UNAN [National Autonomous University of Nicaragua].

According to the proposed system, each division would consist of five members, which would include two of the six Sandinist magistrates currently on the CSJ, plus three independent magistrates. In other words, each division would consist of eight new magistrates to be appointed, plus the independent magistrate already in each division.

There are two ways to achieve such a composition. One is to use the established procedure of voting in the National Assembly. This would settle the issue. However, if it is impossible to achieve a majority of votes for political reasons, the president-elect can legislate by herself during the Assembly's recesses. This would also settle the issue.

There is only one more thing to consider. Splitting the CSJ into divisions will entail more expenditures because it will have to have more personnel, buildings, etc. In theory, the funds released as a result of reducing the number of EPS members would be sufficient to defray these expenditures and others.

Although, according to the Constitution, Nicaraguan citizens have the "duty and the right" to defend the homeland, something already defined in the 1838 Constitution (the first that Nicaragua had as an independent state), and although the 1911 Constitution clearly established the "duty of citizens between 18 and 45 years of age to serve in the Armed Forces," the current Constitution does not establish this. For this reason, the military service law currently in force is a secondary law that can be derogated by a simple majority (47 votes) in the National Assembly without further ado.

Of course, we need to take another fact into consideration—one of a more political nature, related to alternative programs for these thousands of youths. This would place greater burden on the various social services that the state gives its citizens (transportation, education, medical attention, etc.). Once again, the funds could come from what is saved by reducing our Armed Forces.

The idea of eliminating the Army in our country would start a colossal argument, taking into account the interests at stake for the future political opposition, as well as for the future government.

From the Constitution's point of view, it is impossible to make the EPS disappear, because the Constitution clearly says that "the EPS is responsible for protecting the Constitution" and further says that "there can be no other armed corps in the territory."

It is clear that the Army can be reduced, which from all points of view is healthy once the military danger, due to the presence of thousands of counterrevolutionaries in Honduras and part of our territory, ends, along with the aggressive speeches from some countries on the continent, something that has already began.

Dr. Julio Icaza Tijerino, a member of the UNO's legal commission, believes that "forcing a person to belong to the EPS is a human rights violation," because he feels that the Army is partisan, which would mean violating the citizens' human rights.

Despite everything, it is not possible to completely eliminate the EPS for the reasons already given (political, security, social, etc.). However, it can be reduced to acceptable levels and even go through widespread modification, because the Constitution only provides for the EPS existence and its "uniqueness," but leaves open the "the law to regulate the basis for the military organization."

This permits reforming the internal law of the EPS, allowing the Armed Forces to reorganize, starting with the military regions, for example, by granting autonomy to each of them, otherwise making each (Sandinist Air Force and Air Defense, Sandinist Navy, infantry, etc.) have their own commanders, and no one man heading them all.

In this case, Dr. Rafel Chamorro Mora, CSJ judge, said it well: There is very little that can be done, unless the Constitution is partially reformed (which is also true for the previous point of view), which requires 60 percent of the deputies' vote, which means 55 votes, which the incoming UNO bloc does not have, despite what Dr. Icaza has said about waiting for Moises Hassan, the Yatama deputy, to join, or "one or two Sandinists."

The impossibility of privatization is based on Constitution Article 99 which specifices that both [banking and foreign trade], as well as related insurance and reinsurance, have the state characteristic of being "irrevocable."

In addition, some have suggested the "flexibility" of certain laws or regulations, to be able to attain by this certain pending plans or projects, because going the other way—reforming the Constitution—is not possible for any of the assembly groups on their own.

The cases covered by the law are legal expropiation; illegal, improper, or unjust expropiations; and finally, those made against the Somoza family. According to Dr. Icaza, those in the last category are irrevocable unless the previous owner can prove he or she had nothing to do with acts of human rights violations and the like.

In the case of legal expropiation, there is of course nothing more to say. For the second type of case, there are several possibilities, which includes that the land is not being used or is being used for state projects. Then there would be no reason to prevent the return of this land to the former owners.

If, however, this land was occupied by peasants, the state "would have no other option than to indemnify the claimant," UCA Professor Dr. Francisco Rosales Arguello said.

Panama

Government Ministry Announces End of Curfew

PA3103005290 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Government and Justice Ministry has announced that the curfew for Panama and Colon Provinces will be lifted at midnight tomorrow, Saturday, 31 March. The curfew remains in effect tonight from 0200 to 0500.

Endara Asks Group of Rio To Reconsider Exclusion

PA3103042190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2338 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Panama City, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara today asked the "Group of Rio" or the "Group of Eight" to reconsider Panama's definite exclusion, announced last night by Mexican Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana. Endara said that the Panamanian people "overwhelmingly" elected him in the May 1989 elections, commenting on the "Group of Rio" request that a new popular election be held in Panama "without foreign meddling."

"I received the overwhelming mandate of the people, endorsed by the Legislative Branch, as no other president has," Endara stressed, referring to the fact that in the 1989 elections he garnered approximately 70 percent of the votes. The Panamanian president made those remarks to the press at the inauguration of an agricultural and industrial fair in La Chorrera, 32 kms southwest of Panama City. The foreign ministers of the "Group of Rio" nations, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Uruguay, and Venezuela, said today in Mexico that the "democratic legitimization" of Panama mandates a popular election to guarantee the Panamanian people the right to choose their leaders. On 29 March, at the conclusion of the Mexico meeting, Fernando Solana said "Panama does not belong to the Group of Rio." Solana explained that the requirements for being a member of the group were established at the presidents's meeting in Ica, Peru, in 1989, and that owing to "subsequent developments," such as the installation of the Endara government following the U.S. invasion, Panama no longer meets those requirements.

However, the document issued today by the seven foreign ministers at the meeting's end does not explain if Panama, a founder of the group and member from 1986 to 1988, is "suspended" or definitely "excluded." Panama has not attended a "Group of Eight" meeting since February 1988, when president Eric Arturo Del Valle was deposed after failing to remove former General Manuel Antonio Noriega as commander of the Panama Defense Forces.

LA PRENSA on Exclusion

PA0104144690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Mar 90 p 1A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The warped reasons that often inspire the international policy of most countries of the hemisphere decreed that the "Group of Eight" exclude Panama and return to its original name, "Group of Rio." The governments of the countries belonging to that organization feel that the conditions that would allow Panama to return to the group, which is also called the "Permanent Mechanism of Consultation and Political Coordination for Latin America," do not yet exist.

What are those conditions that do not exist now, but did in the past? Panama now has a democratically elected government, while in the past two decades all the governments were imposed and deposed by the general in charge. Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru—self-proclaimed democracies—received, justified, hailed, and frequently decorated Panamanian dictators and the fleeting presidents that served them, and yet this did not hurt the sensibilities of their respective foreign ministries.

Although the group calls itself the "Permanent Mechanism of Consultation and Political Coordination for Latin America," it was ineffectual in solving Panama's political tragedy both in and outside the realms of the OAS. That neglect is in large measure responsible for making the intervention of the U.S. Army inevitable.

Panama loses nothing by not belonging to the group. On the contrary, it gains by not being in such dubious company.

Assembly President Denies U.S. Envoy Meddling

PA0104041190 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 30 Mar 90 p 24A

[Report by Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] Carlos Arellano Lennox, president of the Legislative Assembly, emphatically denied on 29 March the insinuations by PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party] Legislator Miguel Bush concerning the possibility that U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton may have interfered in the affairs of the Legislative Assembly.

The legislator from Colon Province, Miguel Bush, sent a letter to the president of the Legislative Assembly requesting him to explain to the plenum the visit by Ambasador Hinton, whom he described as a "proconsul" of imperialism.

Regarding this matter, Arellano Lennox explained that all visits to the Justo Arosemena Palace by foreign diplomats have had the same nature: They want to learn how our Legislative Assembly is formed, how the working commissions of the Legislative Assembly carry out their duties, and other related topics.

However, Arellano Lennox stressed that as a Panamanian he will never allow foreign meddling in the duties of the Legislative Assembly and one can rest assured of this.

Arellano Lennox explained, step by step, the visits to the Legislative Assembly by a Venezuelan senator; a French senator; representatives of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the Inter-American Development Bank; observers from the Latin American Parliament; and finally Hinton's visit.

The president of the Legislative Assembly told legislator Bush that the upcoming visits to the Legislative Assembly by Guatemalan, Chinese, and Israeli diplomats will also have the same nature. He added that the visitors will receive the same treatment from him. Arellano Lennox added that if legislator Bush wishes, he will be invited to be present during such visits.

Arellano Lennox also noted that as a Panamanian respectful of the sovereignty of the Legislative Assembly, he will deny access to the same by security forces from other countries because he fully trusts the efficiency of the Security Corps of the Legislative Assembly.

President Endara on Police Authority, Cuban Ties

PA3003221890 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 26 Mar 90 p 6

[Text] President Guillermo Endara is conscious of the Panamanians' concern about individuals who persecuted the people in the past and now form part of the new National Police. The president has said that he is the ultimate authority of the Public Force and that both Eduardo Herrera, director of the National Police, and the government and justice minister, who is organizing this armed corps, know it.

At the inauguration of the new board of directives of the National Bar Association on Friday, Endara Galimany told EL SIGLO's Aneldo Arosemena: "I am the president of the republic, and as president I hold the maximum authority over the National Police and the whole Public Force, and anyone who does not acknowledge that will be fired immediately. Let them try and I will show them."

The president expressed acceptance of the criticism of prominent citizens who note the latent danger of a hidden militarism in the organization of the new police force being structured by Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon. "All criticism, especially that made in good faith, is good," Endara said, adding that "there are risks involved and it is good that the media should point out those risks."

On another topic, the president said that he is aware of what he called "the bad manners of the Cuban Government." He said that the national government had decided to be patient and tolerant because "we considered Cuba to be a Latin American brother." He added that the abuses of the Cubans became intolerable and it was necessary to expel Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora. "Panama must be respected," President Endara said.

EL SIGLO also learned that after the decision made by the Foreign Ministry, Minister Julio Linares has received all sorts of calls and death threats against him and his family from individuals linked to extreme-left groups. The foreign minister did not dismiss the possibility of Fidel Castro financing terrorist activities in Panama as a reprisal for the government's decision.

About the status of the former legislator of the opposition Revolutionary Democratic Party [PRD], Luis "Lucho" Gomez, who still is a refugee at the Cuban Embassy, the president reported that there is already an arrest warrant against the former legislator, whom some have called "a PRD thug." Endara added that because of this arrest warrant, Gomez' legal status has changed a lot in the past few days.

About whether Gomez would be given permission to leave if relations were broken, Endara was clear in saying: "We will consult international law and adhere to it."

Luis Gomez, former student leader of the FEP [Federation of Panamanian Students] in the seventies, a personal friend of Noriega's, and a man of Marxist ideas, has been charged with involvement in the deaths of Efrain Guzman Baules in 1987 and Rita Wald, an opposition student leader, in 1977.

Gomez, who did not get enough votes to win a seat in the National Assembly, has been a refugee at the Cuban Embassy for over 90 days, and, as Foreign Minister Linares has said, if relations between the two countries are broken, he will go to Cuba with the embassy's personnel in spite of the crimes he is being accused of.

Foreign Minister on Cuban Ties, Extradition

PA3003180190 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1220 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said that if Cuba and Panama break relations, former legislator Luis Gomez might be taken to Cuba.

[Linares] *In the event of a break in diplomatic relations between Panama and Cuba, the state granting asylum, in this case Cuba, could take Mr. Gomez to Cuba when all the Cuban Embassy employees leave Panama. Another possibility is for Cuba to leave him in Panama in the care of the embassy of a country that is signatory to the Caracas Convention on the Rights of Asylum. If no country signatory to the Caracas Convention agrees to take him, he could be placed in the custody of another country that has a diplomatic mission in Panama, even if that country is not a party to the Caracas Convention.*

I personally believe that if Cuba withdraws its diplomatic officials from Panama, it will take Lucho Gomez to Cuba.

[Unidentified reporter] *Mr. Foreign Minister, I would like to hear your opinion on the matter of Marc Cisneros, commander of the Southern Command [title as heard], having meetings in certain offices, in this case, the office of the governor. Is this not intervention? How would you describe it?*

[Linares] *Look, we have to make a distinction between two things. The governor is not an agency of international relations. All our country's foreign policy has to be conducted through the Foreign Ministry and the U.S. Embassy in Panama, or through the Panamanian Embassy in the United States, because those are the channels for international relations. Now, obviously, there can be contacts or relations, like the case you mention involving the governor of Panama and Mr Marc Cisneros, commander of U.S. Army South. They can exist, but those are not official contacts and should not affect our international relations. In those cases—and I am saying this to Panamanian authorities—an effort should be made to refrain from making pronouncements or taking positions that affect Panama's international relations.*

[Announcer] Referring to the extradition of Luis Gaspar Suarez, the foreign minister said:

[Linares, in progress] *...no bilateral ones. There is a multilateral convention, which is the code of private international law that is more commonly known as the Bustamante Code, to which Panama and Cuba are signatory. Just this morning I signed the request for extradition. Therefore, it should be delivered to the Cuban Embassy either this afternoon or tomorrow. In time, a copy of this document will be given to the press.*

[Reporter] *Has there been any response from the Cuban Government with regard to the expulsion of its ambassador?*

[Linares] *No.*

[Reporter] *None at all?*

[Linares] *None that I am aware of.*

[Reporter] *What about Panama's participation in the Group of Eight?*

[Linares] *Well, as for Panama's participation in the Group of Eight, the Foreign Ministry has made no effort to seek reinstatement into that group, for a very simple reason. As long as Panama had not reestablished diplomatic relations with most of the countries in the Group of Eight—something that has now been done—the Foreign Ministry did not consider it prudent to make an effort in that direction.*

This morning, I spoke by telephone with the Uruguayan foreign minister, who is a personal friend, and he told me that there is a great likelihood that the pronouncement to be made by the Group of Eight in its meeting in Mexico will be moderate where Panama is concerned. However, I repeat, the Foreign Ministry has made no effort to seek reinstatement.

[Announcer] Referring to compensation to be paid to Panama, Foreign Minister Linares said:

[Linares] *In this regard, the Foreign Ministry is awaiting a response to a query sent to the Government and Justice Ministry, in which I asked for a detailed breakdown of the equipment that was taken. I believe that I cannot send a note to the U.S. Embassy unless I have more complete information regarding the equipment that was taken. Thus, I am waiting for the information from the Government and Justice Ministry, so that I can proceed accordingly.*

Nuncio Praises Linares' Decision

PA0104161690 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 29 Mar 90 p 16B

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] The Papal Nuncio Msgr. Jose Sebastian Laboa has described Foreign Minister Julio Linares' decision to expel Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora from Panama as very professional.

Msgr. Laboa, dean of the diplomatic corps accredited in Panama, told EL PANAMA AMERICA he believes Foreign Minister Julio Linares is highly professional and is leading Panama's foreign policy in the right direction.

Msgr. Laboa termed the decision of the Panamanian Foreign Ministry as a very professional action, and he praised the way Foreign Minister Linares is handling Panama's foreign policy.

Msgr. Laboa noted that the high professionalism of the Foreign Ministry and the traditional experience of the Nunciature will soon find a way out of the conflict between Panama and Cuba resulting from the expulsion of the Cuban ambassador from Panama.

Cuban Ambassador in Panama Lazaro Mora left Panama on 26 March after the Panamanian Foreign Ministry gave him five days to leave the country. The Foreign Ministry argued that the Cuban diplomatic mission was disrespectful of the democratic government of President Guillermo Endara.

Meanwhile, Cuban Commander Fidel Castro has not reacted—given the tense relations between the two countries—to the Panamanian Government's aforementioned measure.

Linares Criticizes Amendment to Canal Treaty

PA3003222090 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Report on speech by Foreign Minister Julio Linares before the Soroptimist Club in Panama City—date not given]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said before the Soroptimist Club of Panama that upon establishing 14 military bases in Panama, the United States went further and assumed the right to establish military air bases in Panama. Foreign Minister Linares stated that the Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal does not specify how the United States should carry out the mission to protect the canal. According to the Neutrality Treaty, if the Panama Canal becomes an economic burden for Panama, the United States is authorized to take control of the waterway. Let us listen to Foreign Minister Linares:

[Begin Linares recording] If the canal is closed or if its operation is interfered with in any way, the Republic of Panama and the United States of America each has the right to take measures—that is, if one of these conditions exist. This does not mean there is a right to intervene, that you can intervene to do whatever you please in Panama. No! What the United States can do, if the canal is closed or if canal operations are interfered with, is take whatever action it wants to reopen the canal and put an end to the interference. So, if one of these conditions exist, it becomes an indirect intervention. What is the goal of the U.S. DeConcini Amendment? It is aimed at keeping the canal operating at all times without any interference.

However, if any interference in canal operations occurs, if the canal is closed, the United States is authorized to take whatever measure it deems advisable, including the use of military forces in Panama. What does this mean? The seriousness of the DeConcini amendment lies in the fact that before that amendment the United States was only authorized to take action against third countries. For instance, if a country attacked the canal, the United States would have been authorized to act. However, the amendment considers the possibility that the canal could be closed or canal operations interrupted for reasons other than an attack by a third country. Now we find that the United States can act even in response to actions taken by the Republic of Panama.

In other words, let us suppose that—this can actually happen—tomorrow or the day after tomorrow the canal is in the hands of Panama, and it is no longer competitive, thus becoming an economic burden for Panama. This could actually happen. The canal could become an economic burden for Panama. This would not be a political problem but an economic problem. This means that the United States could send military forces to Panama. They could take control of the canal, run the canal, and operate it in place of Panama. Thus, we are not facing the possibility of actions taken by the United States against third countries but actions against Panamanians. This situation becomes even more complicated if Panama decides that, economically speaking, it would be useless to continue operating the canal. If the United States believes that the canal should continue to operate, it is authorized to come to Panama and operate the Panama Canal until Panama changes its mind.

To sum up, this gives you an idea of the scope of the DeConcini Amendment. According to the Deconcini Amendment, the United States is authorized to send military forces to Panama and to occupy our territory if, because of one aggravating circumstance, they deem it necessary to do so. While the Hay - Buneau Varilla Treaty, which we strongly repudiated, restricted U.S. control to the Canal Zone area, the Neutrality Treaty does not limit U.S. control to the Canal Zone. This treaty extends U.S. control from Chiriqui Province to Darien Province. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Linares said that he believes in the neutralization of the Panama Canal. However, he does not believe in the canal neutralization as set forth in the Neutrality Treaty.

[Begin Linares recording] I reiterate [words indistinct] because many times the news media have distorted my statements. I believe in the neutralization of the Panama Canal. It is necessary and indispensable. However, I do not believe in the neutralization of the Panama Canal as set forth in the Neutrality Treaty. These are two different things. I do not believe in the neutralization of the Panama Canal as established in the Neutrality Treaty because it does not take into account the neutralization of the Panama Canal. The Neutrality Treaty basically takes into account the commercial and security interests of the United States of America. This is the reality. This neutralization does not respond, as it should, to what it should neutralize but responds to the security and commercial interests of the United States of America. [end recording]

The Panama Canal Treaty, as bad as it may seem, terminates on 31 December 1990. However, the Neutrality Treaty was signed in perpetuity, which makes it even worse than the Hay - Buneau Varilla Treaty. The 1903 treaty restricted U.S. control in Panama to the Panama Canal, but the Neutrality Treaty deals with any canal that may be built in the future. The effects of this Neutrality Treaty will become obvious after the year 2000, Foreign Minister Julio Linares said in conclusion.

Endara Angered by Mexican Official's Remarks

PA0104215290 Panama City Radio Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] President Guillermo Endara Galimany carried out a tour of Bocas del Toro Province, which culminated with a rally where he said that Panama does not want to be legitimized by a government like the Mexican foreign minister's, which resulted from electoral tricks:

[Endara] *The Panamanian Government has been legitimized by the people. It was legitimized at the polls on 7 May. We do not want the legitimization of a government like the Mexican foreign minister's, which is the result of electoral tricks by the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party], which is nothing but the Mexican PRD [alluding to Panama's pro-Noriega Democratic Revolutionary Party]. [applause, shouts of "Long Live President Endara"]*

During the 21 years of dictatorship, did that Mexican foreign minister tell the dictatorship that elections should be held? When did he denounce the military dictatorship? Now that Panama has a legitimate government, the Mexicans are talking a lot of rubbish. [applause]

When the Panamanian people approached the OAS seeking justice and democracy, the Mexicans said: We must not touch that issue because it is an internal Panamanian affair. We were oppressed by a dictatorship. Now, however, when there is a legitimate government supported by the people, Mexico is involving itself in Panamanian affairs. Away with the Mexican foreign minister.

[Announcer] President Endara's speech was interrupted by the multitude. He referred to the economic reconstruction process:

[Endara] *I have also come to congratulate the people of Bocas del Toro because they are a hard-working, productive people. There are no vagabonds here; the people are productive. The national treasury receives income from Bocas del Toro because the province produces. [applause]*

When Bocas del Toro asks the national government for projects, it is not begging for anything, it is demanding the projects that the people of Bocas del Toro have paid for out of their own pockets, because Bocas del Toro—I insist—produces. [applause]

I know that all of you are aware of the national treasury's situation. We are thus unable to carry out any projects at this time. However, I must also tell you that we have pledged to carry out a process of economic reconstruction. This economic reconstruction will bring some income to the treasury, and when that income arrives, you must have the projects that you deserve.

[Announcer] To conclude, President Endara, his voice hoarse, said that Bocas del Toro has something that is supremely important—its children:

[Endara] *When I told him [not further identified] that I wanted to come to Bocas del Toro, instead of making a list of what the province needs, he took me to Guabito, and made me drive along the entire highway so that I could experience under my own skin what you suffer, so that I could see how dusty the highway is. [applause]*

The president now knows why you need that highway, and that highway must be built, because you cannot live with the dust on that highway. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, you are hard-working people who produce for the country, but you have something that is supremely important, for which I must also congratulate you. I have come to congratulate you for your youth and children. The people of Bocas del Toro, like the Panamanian people in general, must be fully aware that everything we are doing, the democracy we are building, the freedom we are protecting, the justice we are promoting, and the economic reconstruction we are carrying out, are all an effort to give our children a much better Panama than we have now. They are all an effort to give our children a Panama that will be truly prosperous, that will give all of the Panamanian people the social well-being that they need, to prevent—as is the case of Bocas del Toro—the existence of many communities that do not even have potable water. This cannot be the Panama of tomorrow that we will leave for these children. There must be water everywhere. There must be homes, schools, and clinics. We must live as what we are—dignified human beings, free and sovereign Panamanians. We will thus fulfill Arnulfo Arias Madrid's wish to leave a bigger and better Panama for all Panamanians.

Delvalle Explains Embassy Expenses

PA0204010990 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Former President Eric Arturo Delvalle announced today that in late April he will be in Panama to clarify any situation, underscoring that a $10 million, not a $47 million, budget by the Panamanian Embassy in the United States has been fully accounted for. He made the statements from the United States to our news director Julio Miller.

[Begin recording] [Delvalle] First of all, at no time did the embassy have access to the funds, because all of the frozen funds were handled solely and exclusively by the U.S. Government. I do not know the origin of that report, because I have a photocopy of a document from the comptroller's office, which does mention $47 million of the National Bank and other funds, but at no time does it even suggest that those were the funds placed at the service of the Panamanian Embassy in Washington.

[Miller] Mr. Delvalle, what was the destination of those funds in the Panamanian Embassy in the United States? How were they really used?

[Delvalle] The State Department placed $10 million at the embassy's disposal. From the account that the U.S. Government handled, the embassy made periodic budget transfers. This was used chiefly to cover the costs of many exiles who left Panama and had no means to survive. This included several soldiers. It also helped to maintain radio and television programs and even the purchase of a small printing press, and you will remember that there were some clandestine radio stations operating in Panama, that were financed with these funds. All of this was done with the total and absolute cognizance of the U.S. State Department, who, jointly with the U.S. Embassy, were in charge of these operations.

[Miller] Mr. Delvalle, did the operations that you referred to amount to a total of $10 million or less? Are there documents that attest to what you have affirmed?

[Delvalle] No, at no time did it exceed $10 million. In fact, when the embassy was closed on 31 August, when the U.S. no longer recognized me, there were some funds left over as petty cash, to handle the expenses involved in maintaining the embassy, which we placed in the care of the U.S. State Department, in good condition. Some Air Panama debts had to be paid. Everything that corresponded to the Republic of Panama was clean, paid off, and updated as of 31 August, when the functions of Ambassador Sosa ended. He turned over the funds and the embassy keys to the U.S. State Department.

[Miller] Mr. Delvalle, there is a concern. Where is the confusion between the figure of $47 million and the $10 million in expenses for the Panamanian Embassy in the United States.

[Delvalle] I believe that there was a newspaper report that said that the National Bank had retained that amount. In fact we never had the exact figure of the National Bank funds that could be at this moment behind the doors of the U.S. Treasury. Furthermore, I did not know that there was $47 million. I can tell you that the figures were approximate. I want to tell you two things. First, there was a protest letter by Ambassador Sosa, because one of the banks in which the National Bank had its deposits collected a sum, which if my memory does not fail me, was $17 million that the National Bank owed that bank. Also, the State Department decided on its own that it was prudent to pay and honor some letters of credit that had been opened and issued by the National Bank, through these banks in the United States, before the freeze order was given. Remember that in fact payment was made to the Republic of Chile or to the manufacturing company of some aircraft in Chile that were purchased by the Armed Forces. We do not know how and I cannot tell you how much, I think it was [word indistinct] million balboas.

[Miller] Mr. Delvalle, will you return to the country to clarify this situation? What is your explanation of why you have not returned to Panamanian territory?

[Delvalle] I have received a lot of calls, all asking the same questions. The people calling have the same concern about the reregistration of the political parties. As you know, the magistrates in the service of Noriega fraudulently took the party away from us. At these very difficult moments for the country, I believe we should dedicate ourselves to reconstruction and reconciliation; we should not think about future political campaigns. There will be time for that. Furthermore, Julio, I have been invited to participate in a summit meeting for world peace, which will be held in Moscow in early April. I know that there will be 30 former presidents and several former prime ministers. I will attend the meeting. I think we will be returning to Panama in late April or early May.

[Miller] Mr. Delvalle, during your term as president, was there any control of military expenditures? There were excesses, for example, in the case of Colonel Marcos Justines, who wrote checks payable to the bearer for several thousand dollars.

[Delvalle] Look, I saw, in fact, a photocopy in the newspaper of the checks written by Col. Justines. No, there was no knowledge on our part nor was there any way the executive branch could have known of such a transaction, because they were made directly between the Defense Forces and the National Bank. I doubt that any president could have realized what was occurring, that is, as long as those figures were within the national budget, I assume the bank honored the check and the comptroller possibly certified the expense. There was no way the executive branch could know about it. [end recording]

Attorney General Freezes 'Illegal' Bank Accounts

PA0104025290 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 28 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz yesterday told EL PANAMA AMERICA that over the past three months, the Attorney General's Office has frozen bank accounts that amount to 29 million balboas. Those bank accounts belong to former civilian and military officials, individuals, and corporations, who might be guilty of illegal enrichment.

The official explained that, initially, 400 bank accounts were frozen, but that after an in-depth investigation, 72

accounts amounting to three million balboas were unfrozen because they did not have any links with illegal activities.

Cruz said that, initially, the list of accounts "was not thorough" and included persons who turned out to be innocent. However, other provisions, which were added later, led to the freezing of new accounts.

The Attorney General did not dismiss the possibility of other accounts being frozen over the next few days and some others being unfrozen, once they are proven to have no links to illegal acts.

The Attorney General's Office has also frozen 200 other accounts allegedly used to launder money, some of which belong to the late member of the Medellin Cartel, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha.

Comptroller General Comments on Public Debt

PA0104162890 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 27 Mar 90 pp 28, 16

[Text] Ruben Dario Carles, comptroller general of the republic, has referred to the heavy burden the national government is confronting and to the measures that it is planning to adopt to cope with the problem stemming from our public finances. Carles noted that the public debt exceeds 4.968 billion balboas.

After pointing out that in 1968 the public debt amounted to 206.6 million balboas, the comptroller general stated that by 31 December 1989 the total contractual debt of the public sector amounted to 4.968 billion balboas, of which 3.813 billion were foreign obligations and 1.155 billion, internal debt. There is also an overdraft at the National Bank of Panama of 927 million balboas, a floating debt of 77 million, and accounts payable in the Comptroller General's Office to suppliers for 10.1 million. There are also accounts that were added on to other accounts without due registration in the ministries and government offices of the central government, for a total of 44.9 million balboas in treasury bills.

The current delinquency of the foreign contractual debt, including interest, amounts to 2.3745 billion balboas, while the internal debt plus back interest amounts to 175.6 million. There is a debt of over 624 million balboas, including the back payments in the first trimester of 1990 for 84 million balboas, with the International Financial Institutions (IFIS) alone.

The comptroller general said that under the present circumstances it is impossible to give priority to the agreed obligations, as this would mean depriving the Panamanian people of the basic services they need and demand. The official said that the government payroll is up to date, and the state suppliers will be paid for expenses incurred as of 1 January 1990. He pointed out that the national government is planning to offer the creditors the option of exchanging their debts for assets of state property, which would allow for a substantial reduction in the government's debts.

Ruben Dario Carles said that if the entire official sector gets up to date in their payments to the Social Security Fund, the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, the National Intitute of Telecommunications, and the National Water Works Institute, a great step in ordering the public finances will have been taken. The national government is seeking to recover its credibility and to handle its obligations toward the public sector in a clear manner that will be accepted by all concerned.

Argentina

Falkland Exclusion Zone Officially Lifted

PY3103235090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2218 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] It has been reported officially that the 150-mile military protection zone that Great Britain imposed around the Malvinas Islands after the war with Argentina over sovereignty of the archipelago was formally lifted today. The measure, which came into force at 1300 today, will allow Argentine ships and planes to enter the exclusion zone in keeping with an accord reached by Argentine and British negotiators on 14 and 15 February in Madrid.

Argentina considered the maintenance of the security zone around the Malvinas to be the last obstacle to the full normalization of relations with Great Britain. Relations have improved after the negotiators in Madrid agreed on the resumption of diplomatic talks and the reopening of embassies in the two countries.

The exclusion zone is being lifted two days before the eighth anniversary of the beginning of the war. The sovereignty issue has remained outside all negotiations between British representatives and the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Among other measures, the two sides agreed that each country will inform the other about military maneuvers in certain areas 25 days in advance. The two sides also agreed to create a direct communications system between the commanders of the British forces on the islands and the Argentine Air Force and Navy staffs.

Other joint measures were also established for the purpose of preserving the security of the islands. One of these is a 48-hour advance notification of the presence of military ships that will pass closer than 25 miles from the islands' coast and of military planes passing closer than 70 miles.

The measures are provided for in a "temporary reciprocal information and consultation treaty" that deals with the movement of military units of both countries in the South Atlantic. The objective of the treaty is to "strengthen confidence" between the countries that went to war in 1982. The treaty also seeks to "reduce the possibility of incidents, minimize any consequences in case of incidents, and promote reciprocal knowledge of military activities" in the region.

The lifting of the exclusion zone was simultaneously announced yesterday by Argentine Ambassador-designate to Great Britain Mario Campora and by U.K. Foreign Office officials. In addition to the lifting of the exclusion zone, a joint rescue mechanism for air and maritime emergencies is scheduled to come into force on 2 April.

Movement Supports Fight for Islands, Seineldin

PY3103230990 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1952 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (DYN)—The Patriotic Liberation Movement "now more than ever" is supporting the need to keep "alive the flame that burns for the Malvinas." It criticized "Alfonsin supporters and liberals—hired agents of the empire—who promote the destruction of the state and the de-Malvinazation of the country."

The movement also defended Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, stating that his sentence of 20 days in jail at a military unit in the interior of the country "was imposed by the liberal, pro-government [procesista] Army leadership that synthesizes the persecution of the officers who fought against the British-Yankee imperialism."

Shortly before the eighth anniversary of the beginning of the Malvinas War, the group—led by Jorge Abelardo Ramos, the Peronist government's ambassador to Mexico—urged "the Armed Forces and the people to recover national territorial integrity and to set into motion the unfinished national revolution."

March Cost of Living Figures Reported

PY0204010090 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 31 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] (NA) During the month of March Argentina's cost of living rose 95.8 percent between average levels. The point-to-point measurement resulted in a 53.6 percent increase for the same month, the Economic and Social Policy Institute (IPES) reported yesterday.

The institute also revealed that the consumer price index rose some 3.8 percent during the last week of March.

IPES pointed out that the high increase between average levels is the result of February's lag effect as well as price markups during the first week of March.

The inflationary deceleration registered in the last three weeks of March implies, according to IPES, only a five-percent lag effect for the month of April.

The 3.8 percent weekly increase was influenced mainly by hikes in public transportation and rental costs.

Defense Ministry Source on Appropriation Plan

PY3103001090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2110 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] A Defense Ministry source has reported that President Carlos Menem has authorized a 219 billion austral supplementary allotment [refuerzo de partida] for the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This money will be used to draft new conscripts and for other operational needs. The source said that the decision to draw these funds for the Armed Forces is contained in a presidential decree that was signed today.

The source also reported that the president has ordered a salary adjustment for military personnel of a fixed amount of 150,000 australes, which will be paid out along with March salaries.

The salary issue and a trip to Tierra del Fuego on 5-6 April were the main topics discussed at a meeting that Defense Minister Humberto Romero held this afternoon with the four [as received] chiefs of staff. Romero also held separate meetings with Army Chief of Staff General Martin Bonnet and Navy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Jorge Ferrer this morning.

The salary issue is one of the main problems in the Armed Forces. It is expected that the chiefs of staff and the minister will meet with the president within the next 48 hours. A government source said this morning that the president will use this meeting to become thoroughly acquainted with the situation of each branch—not only concerning salaries, but also budget matters. This meeting will surely be held "before this weekend," the source said.

Concerning the 219 billion australes, the Army will receive 90 billion while the rest will be proportionally distributed between the Air Force and the Navy. Some of these funds will be used to draft new conscripts, men who were born in 1971. The draft had been delayed due to a lack of funds.

Every year the Armed Forces receive a special allotment like this one to draft the new class. This special allotment will be used to pay for travel expenses, to open bids for uniforms, and to purchase vaccines and other items required for the initial military tasks of the new soldiers.

While some of the allotment will be used to draft conscripts, some of the money will also be used to prepare [alistamiento] military materiel such as vehicles, airplanes, helicopters, etc.

According to a report published today by the newspaper DIARIO POPULAR on the concerns of parents and youths over the delay in discharges, the delay in drafting the new class has also delayed the discharge of soldiers currently in service, which totals about 6,000 in the Army alone.

Citing a high ranking military source, the newspaper indicated that parents and soldiers should not worry about the possibility of conscripts' studies being affected because those who want to study can register or continue (?with their studies) by presenting the appropriate certificates.

The source said that the soldiers have "always" been allowed to study. Therefore, the delay in discharges shouldn't cause concern—if the issue of studies is what is causing this concern.

Regarding the salary issue, military sources have admitted that this fixed amount of 150,000 australes will improve the situation of low ranking noncommissioned officers and junior officers. This is not the case for the senior officers (majors, lieutenant colonels, colonels, and generals). For them, the fixed amount represents a much smaller adjustment.

The sources mentioned the need for a 200-percent real adjustment to reach acceptable levels, recalling that a 700 percent adjustment would be necessary to reestablish past levels.

Menem Advocates Death Penalty for Traffickers

PY3103032990 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Report by Silvina Martinez Porta]

[Text] President Menem this morning reasserted the need to implement the death penalty for drug traffickers, whom he described as traffickers of death. Menem made this statement to 50 delegates at the seventh congress of the Inter-American Association Against Drug Abuse, which is meeting in Buenos Aires.

Menem was at the podium in the White Room of Government House with Secretary for Drug-Related Issues Alberto Lestelle and the president of the Inter-American Association Against Drug Abuse.

[Begin Menem recording] Despite the criticism I have received, I will continue to stress the need—and I beg your forgiveness if some of you disagree with me, because I believe in God, I am a Christian and a Catholic—to implement the death penalty for those who traffic in death.

I know I am being too harsh. However, we cannot tolerate those who profit from this absurd, intolerable, and arbitrary traffic. We cannot tolerate those who have raised actual empires and armies to protect this empire of death. We cannot tolerate these people going unpunished in our communities or in our jails, which is also a kind of life, because they must receive a just punishment.

I will continue to stress the need to implement the death penalty for drug traffickers who are directly responsible for and conspirators in this filthy business. This is a courageous and decisive decision to continue advancing in our war, in our battle against this real scourge. This scourge is worse than any conventional war or any plague because it corrodes our communities and our children, and this is worse than any plague or war. [end recording]

Menem reasserted that his administration will fight to the end in its struggle against this blight, which, he said, is destroying many sectors of international society spiritually and materially.

Official Reports $250 Million Loan for Dam

PY3003191690 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1935 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (NA)—Jose Abraham, executive director of the Yacyreta Binational Enterprise, today announced that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a $250 million loan for the

hydroelectric dam that is being built on the Parana River. Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez and IDB President Enrique Iglesias will sign the contract in Toronto, Canada, on 2 April.

In a news conference, Abraham reported that "some $500 million are needed to complete the engineering structure of the dam; between $400 and $500 million for relocation purposes; and between $500 and $600 million for electromechanical equipment. " Abraham also reported that next week the World Bank will disburse $84 million, which is part of a $250 million loan granted earlier.

The Argentine official described as "normal" the pace at which the machinery is being assembled. He said the installation of the first of the 20 turbines is scheduled for November 1992. Abraham added that the first segment of high tension lines will be laid between the cities of Ituzaingo and Posadas. He noted, however, that the final decision will rest with the Water and Electrical Energy Enterprise.

Abraham concluded by stating "the environmental aspects of the dam have not been adequately covered," and, therefore, "the Misiones and Corrientes provincial governments and the Health and Social Action Ministry are working on an integrated plan."

Cavallo Signs Bilateral Agreement With Mexico

PY3003185690 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo and his Mexican counterpart, Fernando Solana, today signed an agreement which provides for the creation of a permanent bilateral commission.

According to the text of the document the objectives of the bilateral commission will be aimed at promoting cooperation in the political, economic, scientific, technical, educational, and cultural sectors.

Maxwell Will Reportedly Purchase TV Channel 2

PY3103192090 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2310 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Mar (NA)—According to a press report, a joint venture formed by British magnate Robert Maxwell and Argentine businessmen will take possession of Television Channel 2 after a court ruling upholds a decision made by a Television Channel 2 meeting of creditors. The magazine SOMOS has reported that, after the deal is endorsed by the Banco Frances, 80 percent of the shares of the El Carmen broadcasting company, the Television Channel 2 licensee, will be sold for about $7 million.

Another press report disclosed today that the newspapers CLARIN and LA NACION have purchased LA RAZON's shares of the Papel Prensa newsprint company. Congressional sources have indicated that the buyers will pay about $6 million and that the evening newspaper will be able to reappear in a week. The congressional sources added that the newspaper's newsprint will be subsidized.

The conglomerate of Peralta Ramos, which is selling its shares in the paper company, will settle debts with members of the LA RAZON board of directors for $700,000 and will pay overdue personnel salaries for a similar amount.

Concerning the Television Channel 2 purchase deal, the magazine SOMOS said that Argentine businessman Francisco Macri (owner of Sevel [expansion unknown], Socma [expansion unkown], among other companies) will become Maxwell's partner.

It was also reported that the owner of Estrella Producciones will collect between $5 and $5.7 million in this transfer, and that Jose Irusta Cornet, the former chairman of the El Carmen broadcasting company, will collect about $2 million.

Bolivia

President Paz Comments on Economy, Diplomats

PY3003140490 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora said today during a brief session with the press that the country's economy is on the right path; anything said to the contrary is the product of negative thoughts that damage the country's image.

[Begin recording] [Paz] The World Bank document is not alarming. A local daily made it alarming, which is quite different. The World Bank document is an internal bank document. In other words, for the Bolivian Government it is not an official document. It is an internal document for study, and, from what I could see, the document indicates that the Bolivian economic model is doing well, but that there are some questions about the public administratio; about what is going to happen to Karachipampa [mineral processing plant]. In other words, I do not see the report as alarming. It is a working document requested by a World Bank expert. The daily that published it made it alarming. The daily should be asked why a delicate issue for the country was discussed in an alarming manner.

The points of view of the IMF and the World Bank on Bolivia are excellent, and how do you prove that? The World Bank, the IMF, and the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] reports helped Bolivia receive, 15 days ago from the Paris Club, the privileged country status for dealing with the foreign debt. That is the best proof that the IMF, the World Bank, and the international financial world have complete confidence in our good administration of the Bolivian economy. These are not documents, they are concrete facts; such as the Bolivian victory at the Paris Club in the negotiations of its foreign debt.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Paz] About the behavior of diplomats in our country. Our country has very clear rules which are implemented by our Foreign Ministry. It is no longer up to the president to say how diplomats should behave in our territory. The Foreign Ministry has its own mechanisms. Therefore, if wrong doings are reported, the Foreign Ministry will use the existing mechanisms to act in accordance with national sovereignty.

I would like to reiterate that some fellow countrymen have a shortsighted concept of sovereignty, which has served only to cause problems between Bolivia and other countries.

I therefore ask those people to observe a very responsible attitude concerning our relations with other countries, especially with the large industrialized nations. [end recording]

Iturralde Comments on U.S. Military Presence

PY3103152090 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Commenting on press reports about the increased number of U.S. military advisers engaged in the antidrug fight in Bolivia, Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has stated that the number of U.S. military experts performing advisory functions in certain areas of the country is relatively low and (? has been decreasing) recently.

Iturralde said that there are only two groups of U.S. military experts now working in Bolivia. One group is working on the project to level Patipati Hill, and the other is working on a special health project in Oruro Department.

Iturralde also confirmed that the National Council Against Drug Abuse and Illegal Drug Trafficking, Conalid, is considering the possible participation of the Armed Forces in the antidrug plan. He said: We believe there are very interesting prospects for the Armed Forces to help—through civic projects—in the (?farming) development program, especially in border areas.

Commenting on charges raised by Bolivian peasants about the diversion of the Lauca River, Iturralde announced that a joint Bolivian-Chilean commission will be created to conduct the appropriate investigation in the border area. He said the Chilean Government has already authorized the entry into Chilean territory of the members of that technical commission.

Supreme Court Orders Judges' Dismissals

PY3003181890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2216 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] La Paz, 29 Mar (EFE)—The Supreme Court of Justice has dismissed two judges from a departmental appellate court and has ordered them tried on charges of releasing a drug-trafficking leader.

The appellate court in Sucre has accepted the public prosecutor's charges against Judges Hugo Anez Sandoval and Hugo Mercado Mendoza, who ordered the release of Jorge Roca Suarez, alias "Straw Hat." Roca Suarez is regarded by Bolivian police as the "number one" drug trafficker.

The Supreme Court has announced that the charges against the two judges, who are members of the appellate court in the northern Beni Department, are based on "enough evidence of culpability" found in the case portfolio of "Straw Hat," a nickname given to Roca Suarez due to the color of his hair.

Roca Suarez was arrested by the police in 1988 on charges of cocaine trafficking. He was released because, according to the judges, no irrefutable proof was found against him. Roca Suarez is heir to the empire of Roberto Suarez Gomez, his uncle, who was arrested in La Paz. Suarez Gomez is known as the "King of Cocaine."

Anez Sandoval, Mercado Mendoza, and former prosecutor Jose Palma Sandoval, who was discharged from his post, were charged with malfeasance in office in the aforementioned case.

The public prosecutor has filed a charge with the court against Jaime Rivero Aviles, who ordered the release of two drug traffickers. Rivero Aviles is a member of the appellate court of the eastern department of Santa Cruz. On 29 March, Edgar Oblitas, the president of the Supreme Court of Justice, said that the judges' trial will begin on 3 April following the court's decision to moralize the administration of justice in the country.

According to Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco, the reasons for the corruption are the salaries earned by court personnel in charge of hearing drug related cases and the influential economic power of drug traffickers.

Capobianco said that the wage of the Narcotics Courts' personnel are paid with funds provided by the U.S. Government because the Bolivian state lacks resources to pay them.

While the Supreme Court ordered the trial of the two judges, it has been reported in La Paz that some members of the Narcotics Courts left their jobs because they have not been paid for eight months.

Brazil

$1.5 Billion Lost in Exports Under Collor's Plan

PY3003124890 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Mar 90 p 17

[Text] Sao Paulo—Due to the paralyzation of foreign trade, Brazil has already lost $1.5 billion from lost exports during the past 15 days . According to Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes, president of the Association of Brazilian Exporters (AEB), the main reason is the lack of foreign deals (imports and exports) and the paralyzation of the exchange market due to the unreal exchange rates established by the Central Bank.

The exchange rate has been erratic during the past two weeks thus making foreign deals unfeasible. The Central Bank was selling dollars at 32 cruzeiros; today the dollar is selling at 39 or 40 cruzeiros. Air fares are being sold at a rate of 55 cruzeiros per dollar. Maritime companies are charging freight at a rate of 45 cruzeiros per dollar while the government is charging an additional tax on freight at an exchange rate of 42.50 cruzeiros per dollar. The banks are buying dollars at 39 cruzeiros and selling them for almost 50 cruzeiros. In other words, the spread [preceding word in English] varies from 30 to 65 [as published] cruzeiros which makes foreign trade unfeasible, added Pratini.

Pratini de Moraes made a point of saying that he supports Collor's plan but that he regretted that it has suffocated the foreign market. He complained that we want dynamism and not stagnation, which is what the plan is causing in this sector.

The AEB president, who yesterday met with Antonio Carlos Sochaczewski, director of the Central Bank Foreign Affairs Department, to inform him that the country is losing $100 million per day with the paralyzation of foreign trade, believes that the government must urgently set the foreign exchange market in motion. He believes that the ideal free exchange rate would be 50 or 60 cruzeiros per dollar.

Freeing imports and the adoption of a floating exchange rate has not helped stimulate foreign trade. Jean Martin Segrest, superintendent of Rhodia Import and Export trading [preceding word in English] of the French group Rhone Poulenc, disclosed that the enterprises are acquiring the bare essentials for production.

Roberto Faldini, president of the Brazilian Association of Open Capital Enterprises [Associacao Brasileira das Companias Abertas] (Abrasca), yesterday asserted that if cruzeiros are not injected into the market immediately to resume economic activities, the country will suffer a strong recession. Faldini suggests that the government correct the exchange rates in order to encourage exports and thus create an alternative source of funds for enterprises at this moment of tight liquidity.

According to the Abrasca president, the exchange rate continues to be unreal because the dollar exchange dropped after the Collor Plan was implemented. Today the dollar costs some 38 cruzeiros when, in Faldini's opinion, it should cost between 55 and 60 cruzeiros.

Faldini said that at present the enterprises are working at 20 percent of their capacity and that many are beginning to grant their employees leave with pay and collective vacations; are looking into dismissing employees; and reviewing their investment plans for this year. He said that the textile, automobile, iron and steel, informatics, construction, and spare part factories are starting to grant their employees leave and collective vacations. Faldini believes that the tight liquidity has paralyzed the productive sector thus proving that 20 percent of cruzeiros, which is the amount made available, is not enough to move the country's economy.

Various Payments Abroad Suspended Since 10 Jan

PY0104022890 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Mar 90 p 19

[Text] Brasilia—Carlos Eduardo Tavares de Andrade, head of the Exchange Department of the Central Bank (BC), reported yesterday that Brazil has not been releasing remittances on profits, dividends, or the repatriation of capital abroad since 10 January. The government hid the suspension during this period and only reported to the press that most of the interest owed to private banks and the $1 billion owed to the Paris Club were being withheld. Payments abroad have been restricted to the interest on short-term trade lines and to the payment of interest and principal to official organizations like the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Tavares de Andrade did not want to reveal how much has been withheld nor what made the BC decide to suspend the payments. The reason for the suspension, however, is the need to maintain foreign reserves at the $7-billion level. The last administration established a scale for the remittances. In accordance with this scale, payments would always be made over an extended period beginning with the date of the request. Remittances for profits and dividends would be issued three months after the requests, while the repatriation of capital invested in Brazil would only be effected six months after the request.

The transference of power, which was scheduled to take place at a critical moment in Brazil's relations with the international financial community, forced the economic team to maintain reserves at the highest level possible before turning them over to the incoming administration. The reserves could be seriously affected because several multinationals were closing their fiscal year and, as a result, the government expected to receive requests for substantial payments for profits made abroad, and the repatriation of capital.

Through Circular 1639 the BC yesterday instituted rules for releasing resources deposited in foreign currency. The exporters who have moved up the dates of their exchange contracts and deposited the resources at the BC will now be able to release these funds whenever they establish the exchange rate that will be used in setting terms for business deals abroad.

Inflation Rate for March: 84.32 Percent

PY3103025090 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpt] According to the consumer price index released today by the IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics], the March inflation rate was 84.32 percent. This figure was strongly influenced by two

factors: transportation and communications, with a 94.83-percent increase, and personal expenses, with an increase of 92.37 percent. [passage omitted]

Milk Program for Children Temporarily Suspended

PY0104030790 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Mar 90 p 7

[Excerpt] Brasilia—The government today suspended the distribution of free milk to 8 million children from poorer sectors. The suspension of the National Milk Program was announced yesterday by National Social Promotion Secretary Flora Lys Spolidoro. She explained that the secretariat does not have enough funds and that it needs time to restructure the program, which will be reestablished, with some restrictions, in one month. [passage omitted]

Radiobras Cited as 'Example' of Privatization

PY3103203090 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 13 Mar 90 p 5 Economic Section

[Report by Ariosto Teixeira]

[Text] Brasilia—President Fernando Collor, even before his inauguration, already has a rare example of reorganization and privatization of a state-owned enterprise from Jose Sarney's government. This is the case of Radiobras [Brazilian Radio Broadcasting Company], the state-owned communications company. Over the past three years Radiobras privatized 34 of its 40 radio and television stations, dismissed 681 employees, closed seven of its 10 branches, and abolished 169 positions. Upon incorporating the Brazilian News Agency (EBN) in 1988, Radiobras relocated it to an old 15-by-five meter auditorium. EBN had been occupying an 11-floor building in the southern commercial sector of Brasilia.

Journalist Antonio Martins, who has been the president of Radiobras since 1987 and was charged with executing the privatization plan, said: "We sold everything we could and streamlined the enterprise as much as possible." Radiobras obtained 2 billion new cruzados—at today's exchange rates—through the sale of eight AM radio stations, 12 FM radio stations, seven tropical wave stations, the Porto Velho television station, and six television relay stations. Martins said these funds were used to modernize TV Nacional, improve the salary scales of Radiobras employees, and even reduce the Treasury's deficit. "I transferred five percent of this amount to the Treasury Secretariat," Martins added.

The Radiobras privatization plan did not include just radio and television stations. Like most state-owned companies, Radiobras also owned assets that were completely unrelated to its activities, such as lots (11 of which were sold). It also owned lots in Boa Vista on which a church and a school were built.

The Radiobras president said that of the remaining stations only Radio Nacional of Rio de Janeiro and Radio Nacional AM and FM of Brasilia could be privatized. Brasilia TV Nacional, Radio Nacional da Amazonia, and Radio Nacional do Brasil, which carry international services, are considered to be "unsalable." In his opinion, these stations provide essential services to the nation and the president of the Republic as well in establishing communications with the Amazon region and abroad.

Martins' successor at Radiobras will receive an enterprise, with 30 million new cruzados in cash on hand, and 100 million new cruzados to be collected. The future Radiobras president will be able to broadcast the Voice of Brazil via satellite rather than via the Brazilian Telecommunications Company, thus halving the cost of the operation that started on Friday [not further identified].

Report on Provisional Parties, Election Calendar

PY3103232890 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Mar 90 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—The Superior Electoral Court (TSE) has forbidden parties, that have obtained only provisional registration, to take part in these elections. Resolution 16347, which was released yesterday, allows only the parties that have provisional municipal executive boards registered at the Regional Electoral Courts (TRE), in at least 20 percent of the counties of a state, to field candidates in the upcoming elections.

Additionally, the deadline for several parties, with provisional registrations, will pass during the electoral campaign, and these parties will not be allowed to present candidates. As of yesterday 16 parties had obtained their definitive registration. Before the electoral campaign starts, however, four more will have obtained theirs.

The TSE will release two more guidelines for this year's elections; one will regulate free electoral propaganda and the other will establish the electoral calendar. TSE President Sydney Sanches plans to establish the date for the runoff after the 6 April meeting with TRE presidents. Sanches wants to hold the runoff on 15 November instead of 9 December.

Although not official, these are the key deadlines for this year's electoral calendar:

2 April—Deadline for the president of the Republic, governors, and mayors to leave their positions and become candidates. (The deadline for ministers and secretaries of state will be defined by Congress);

3 April —Deadline for party registration;

24 June—Deadline for holding conventions and registering voters;

3 July—Official opening of the electoral campaign, including permission to use loudspeakers for electoral propaganda;

5 July - Deadline for presentation of requests for registration at TRE;

25 July - Deadline for TRE approval of registration of candidates;

2 August - Beginning of free electoral campaign season;

30 September - End of free electoral campaign season;

3 October - First round of elections.

State Company Assesses Demand in Nuclear Market

PY3003232690 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Mar 90 p 10

[Report by Tania Malheiros]

[Text] Rio—The state-owned enterprise Brazil Uranium has just finished a study on the world's need for yellow cake [preceding word in English], which is greatly desired by manufacturers of nuclear bombs and reactors. According to the study, during the next decade Germany [not further specified] will need to import 2,000 tons of yellow cake, South Korea the same amount, the Netherlands 1,800 tons, and Japan 1,500 tons. Based on the figures in the Brazil Uranium report, it is believed that Brazil will enter the international yellow cake market, which it has yet to enter despite having the fifth largest yellow cake reserve in the world.

To make export of this product feasible, however, the new government must first define the policy on privatizing uranium prospecting that was started by the previous government. Brazil Uranium wants to maintain the contracts signed with the Andrade Gutierrez Civil Engineering Company and the Peval-Natron consortium, which plan to invest $350 million in the uranium deposits that have been discovered up to now. According to Brazil Uranium President Jose Milton Sampaio, in the Itatiaia deposit in Ceara there are 40,000 tons of natural uranium and approximately 10 million tons of phosphate (raw material used to produce fertilizers), a product Brazil imports from Morocco. According to Sampaio, there are also approximately 90,000 tons of natural uranium in the Lagoa Real deposit in Bahia.

If the Secretariat for Strategic Affairs allows the participation of private enterprise, the Lagoa Real deposit will be able to produce some 1,000 tons of yellow cake per year as of 1992, Sampaio asserted. He also noted that the Engerio enterprise is already carrying out studies in Lagoa Real for an environmental impact report (RIMA) for the region: "It would make no sense to start a yellow cake production program without a preliminary study on the international market's yellow cake needs," added Sampaio.

According to the report drawn up by the Brazil Uranium experts, the demand for yellow cake will increase over the next decade and, consequently, prices will go up. The report also notes that there are 417 nuclear plants operating throughout the world with another 120 currently under construction. Sampaio commented that every country except the United States, Canada, Australia, and South Africa will have to import this product."

The continuation of the parallel nuclear program being carried out by the Armed Forces might block the idea of sharing yellow cake production with private enterprises. Sampaio asserted that "we know nothing about that project and believe that exporting yellow cake would be a great business for the country."

Infrastructure Minister on Trade Deal With Iraq

PY3103024490 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Infrastructure Minister Ozires Silva today said that a contract signed with Iraq which arranges the trade, of 144,000 tons of sugar and 10,000 tons of meat for 200,000 barrels of petroleum, was legal. The contract was signed through Inderbras [expansion unknown] eight days after the signing of Provisional Measure 151, which abolished Inderbras.

The minister explained that everything had been agreed on and that, since Iraq has been a good trade partner with Brazil, even during the petroleum crisis, a decision was made to sign the contract, making retroactive the closing date of the negotiations.

Chile

Army Communique Denies Pinochet's Remarks

PY3103174490 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Mar 90 p C3

[Text] In an official communique released yesterday, the office of the Army Commander in Chief, through its Public Relations General Secretariat, denied that, in referring to the attack on General Gustavo Leigh, retired Captain General Augusto Pinochet had said that "there will be a series of attacks," and that "others will follow suit."

Here is the text of the note released yesterday by the Army Public Relations Department:

"Regarding the statements published today by the newspapers EL MERCURIO and LAS ULTIMAS NOTICIAS that claim, in reference to the attack on Air Force General Gustavo Leigh Guzman and Air Force General Enrique Ruiz Bunger, the Army commander in chief had said at the Armed Forces Building that "there will be a series of attacks," that "others will follow suit," and that "they are just beginning," the Army Public Relations Department wants to make the following clear:

"Captain General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, the Army commander in chief, has not made such statements at any moment, and he did not speak to the media in his offices yesterday.

"Therefore, the statements published by the aforementioned media are absolutely inaccurate.

"On the other hand, the public must know that any official communique on this, or any other matter related to the Army, will be exclusively routed through this Department."

The official communique is signed by the Army Public Relations Department.

USSR's Vadim Zagladin Discusses Relations, Cuba

PY3103215090 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 18 Mar 90 p D-14, D-15

[Interview with Vadim Zagladin, adviser to Mikhail Gorbachev and head of a USSR delegation to Chile, by undentified reporter in Santiago; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [EL MERCURIO] What advice did you give to Gorbachev before coming to Chile?

[Zagladin] I advised him to do everything possible to restore and improve our bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

[EL MERCURIO] What do you think about the current relations between the CPSU and the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh)?

[Zagladin] The CPSU and the PCCh have always maintained and will continue to maintain good, friendly relations. We believe that each party is independent and that each party establishes its own policy. Each party is responsible for its own policy. There is something else I want to say: We have maintained relations with other political parties and we are planning to establish relations with the rest of Chile's political parties. We have maintained ties with the Socialist Party for several years. I can also tell you that I have discussed with the president of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) the possibility of the PDC and the CPSU tightening their relationship. Our connections do date have been basic. We have reached an agreement to increase these ties.

[EL MERCURIO] What do you think about the activities of groups linked to the PCCh such as the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front and the Lautaro group, who may disrupt the Chilean democratic process?

[Zagladin] This is a matter that concerns our Chilean friends. Based on what Comrade Volodia Teitelboim has told me, it seems that the PCCh fully supports the democratization process and wants to actively cooperate in this process.

[EL MERCURIO] What would you suggest to your Chilean comrades regarding the current Chilean process?

[Zagladin] I had already said that we believe each party is independent. Consequently, we can make no suggestion.

[EL MERCURIO] In your opinion, what attitude should political parties adopt in the face of this new democratic process?

[Zagladin] Speaking in a general sense, I believe that democracy and humanism are currently the main challenges. Any party that wants to keep abreast with the times should build its policies on these principles.

[EL MERCURIO] What can you tell us about future Soviet-U.S. relations?

[Zagladin] U.S.-Soviet relations have improved significantly. The two countries have reached a common understanding and have made decisions on the interaction. The situation in Namibia is a concrete example. I did not talk with U.S. Vice President Quayle here but I did speak with Senator Kennedy. We share similar viewpoints on matters related to the Chilean democratic process and on the need to support the development of such processes all over the world.

[EL MERCURIO] Does this process include Cuba, which is now isolated from the Americas?

[Zagladin] I am convinced that the Cuban comrades will overcome this situation by themselves.

[EL MERCURIO] What do you think about the current situation of the Chilean economy?

[Zagladin] I think that it is very important to promote organic coordination between democratic development and economic efficiency.

[EL MERCURIO] Will it be possible for the Soviet Union to consider implementing some of Chile's economic principles in the reform process that is taking place in that country?

[Zagladin] Everything is possible after the restoration of diplomatic relations. We will promote both cooperation and exchange of experience.

[EL MERCURIO] Why did your country agree to suspend the fishing accord with Chile that had been in force since 1972?

[Zagladin] The decision was made by the former Chilean administration and we accepted that decision. We have now reached an agreement to resume negotiations on putting that accord into effect, or making important changes in the agreement. We are beginning talks in this area.

[EL MERCURIO] Did you meet with Clodomiro Almeyda, who will reportedly be the future Chilean ambassador to your country?

[Zagladin] The appointment of the future Chilean ambassador to the Soviet Union is a matter for the Chilean Government. I do not know anything about that. But I did talk with Almeyda at the reception at La Moneda Palace; as in the past, we had a friendly talk, especially on matters related to the development of Chilean democracy.

[EL MERCURIO] Do you think Almeyda is the right man for that post?

[Zagladin] There are many people in Chile who could handle those duties and it is up to the Chilean Government to choose the ambassador.

[EL MERCURIO] What message did Mikhail Gorbachev send to President Aylwin?

[Zagladin] Gorbachev's message to Aylwin conveys his deep solidarity with Chilean democracy and his trust that bilateral relations will develop successfully in all sectors for the benefit of our countries and the interests of democracy, peace, and human rights throughout the world.

More on Ties, Fishing Agreement

PY3103211490 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 Mar 90 p C-3

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry yesterday began official procedures for having Chile's new ambassadors abroad approved. This was reported yesterday by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who said that studies on this matter will culminate with a meeting to be held with President Patricio Alywin on 22 March. [passage omitted]

Regarding the concerns of Navy officers who have said that the presence of Soviet ships in the area could increase with the resumption of ties with that nation, Silva Cimma said that a document was signed reestablishing relations and mutually agreeing to suspend the treaty on fishing matters signed during Salvador Allende's regime.

"That agreement was suspended to allow the Chilean Government to make a more detailed study of the various connotations of the agreement," Silva Cimma said.

Told that Vadim Zagladin, an adviser to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, had reported that a new fishing agreement will be negotiated, Silva Cimma said that it is possible that a new agreement "which will be of more interest to the two countries" will be reached. Silva Cimma added that the new fishing agreement will be linked to the new fishing law and the provisions on export fishing and the refitting of fishing boats.

The minister added that he will discuss this matter with Admiral Jorge Martinez Busch, the Navy commander in chief, who has requested a meeting with him. [passage omitted]

PCCh Says Criminal Actions Being Misinterpreted

PY3103160890 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 20 Mar 90 p C2

[Excerpt] Jose Sanfuentes, the spokesman of the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh], yesterday charged that there is a campaign aimed at "disturbing the favorable way in which the democratic process has begun." This campaign "is calling attention to events that are merely criminal" and that "in no way have the importance or significance being attributed to them," he said.

Discussing the disturbances in front of La Moneda Palace on 11 March, Sanfuentes pointed out that "we emphatically reject vested interests taking advantage of such criminal actions and turning them into a campaign of political attacks against the left or against any other sector."

Sanfuentes made these remarks at the end of a meeting with Interior Minister Enrique Krauss. The meeting was held at the La Moneda Palace at noon yesterday. [passage omitted]

Carabineros Break up PCCh Demonstration

PY3103022690 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has protested a Carabineros unit's repression of a group of communist demonstrators on Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue in front of the government palace at noon today. The demonstration was organized by the national coordinator for human rights organizations and other groups to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the 1985 murder of three communists and to honor victims of repression under the previous administration.

PCCh spokesman Jose Sanfuentes said that a peaceful demonstration was taking place when a group of Carabineros attacked the demonstrators and destroyed pictures of arrested and missing people. He also said that the police beat up people, some of whom suffered cuts. Sanfuentes expressed his party's concern over what he labeled a serious act of repression against a peaceful demonstration of which the people were well informed. He added that this attack cannot be tolerated under the country's new situation, when a new democratic process is beginning with respect for the free expression of the people as one of its basic pillars.

Sanfuentes also said that it is amazing that these Carabineros could obstruct a meeting calling for truth and justice, which are basic elements for the consolidation of the democratic process. In the name of the PCCh, Sanfuentes asked democratic officials not to allow police actions of this type in the future.

The permit to hold the demonstration had been denied by the Santiago Metropolitan Intendant's Office. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Police Free American, Arrest Alleged Kidnappers

PA3003125790 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1218 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Cali—Metropolitan police forces in Santiago de Cali have arrested two policemen and two civilians on charges of being involved in the kidnapping of the American Gerardo Robinson Davila on 27 March near the Santa Paola neighborhood in the northern part of the city.

This information was confirmed to Radio Cadena Nacional by Metropolitan Police Commander Colonel Rodrigo Millan Bautista, who said that the individuals arrested are already in the custody of competent authorities.

Gerardo Robinson Davila was rescued at dawn today by the police, who also arrested two policemen and two other individuals. The detainees have been identified as Luis Mazo Arango, William Alberto Garrote Garcia, Policeman Laureano Ortiz from the mobile unit, and another policeman whose name and full identity has not been disclosed.

Foreign Minister on Overflight of U.S. Aircraft

PA0104173190 Paris AFP in Spanish 1554 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (AFP)—Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes rejected foreign meddling today and said that any airplane wanting to fly in Colombian airspace must have permission from Colombian Civil Aeronautic authorities.

Londono Paredes said this in the wake of last week's incident, when a U.S. Hercules dive-and-rescue training airplane flew in Colombian airspace without authorization, nearly colliding with a Colombian commercial airplane in midair.

He said that no airplane, no matter where it comes from, can move inside Colombian territory "as if it were at home."

Regarding the U.S. Hercules spotted on 28 March in Cali, 500 km to the west of Bogota, the foreign minister stressed that "these airplanes must obey Colombian aeronautical laws."

Barco Addresses Nation on Media, Drugs, Economy

PA3103050090 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 0230 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Speech by President Virgilio Barco to the nation from the Narino Palace in Bogota on 30 March—live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: I address you alarmed by the process of disinformation and confusion the country has been subject to in the wake of discussions stemming from the latest political events. Colombians have been victims of distortions, superficial interpretations, and hasty conclusions. No doubt, some of the news reports are well intended. However, others are motivated by a yen for sensationalism, seeking scandal or impassionate reactions. Allow me to mention just a few examples. A Bogota newspaper headline read: The President Is Accused. It made reference to a purported Supreme Court of Justice lawsuit against the president. Well, Dr. Jorge Carreno, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Justice, has said that this is not true. In another recent case, a newspaper carried a story on page two about whether five ministers had signed a certain communique. In addition, the newspapers reported that the ministers had confirmed not one, but several times that they were aware of and agreed with the text of that communique.

There are many similar cases. Another newspaper asked about the Security Council minutes, forgetting that Decree No. 129 of 1976 forbids the minutes from leaving the Security Council meetings. We could go on. It was said that the Colombian Government has suspended operations against drug traffickers and organized crime, but confiscations, arrests, raids, dismantling of henchmens' bands, apprehension of killers, destruction of drug laboratories, and other actions continue. This can be seen by scanning news reports carried by the news media in the past months.

It has been categorically stated that organized crime has called a truce, but in fact, crimes against judges, soldiers, and innocent people, and the utilization of henchmen, mercenaries, and dynamite has continued. This proves that just the opposite has occurred.

The narcoterrorists have not stopped for one single day trying to rebuild their efforts to promote violence, to expand their drug trafficking activities, and to overcome the blows that the authorities have continuously dealt. [Words indistinct] the confusion with which certain information and debates have been handled. There are those who point to the honesty of the criminals, but these criminals have killed hundreds of good men who have represented Colombia and put themselves in danger while defending the country's interests.

We have reached the point where some people are starting to believe that the criminals should be pardoned and the government blamed for the acts of violence because it has continued to wage war by enforcing the law. People should not show their lack of respect for the nation this way. You know that this has not been the style [words indistinct] news media, I will ask them to promote tranquillity in a constructive manner [words indistinct] in the public opinion.

This government has shown respect for the news media. On certain occasions, this respect has been interpreted as indifference. We have promoted criticism and opposition as an essential element of democracy. The conduct of the government and of all government officials has always been open to public criticism. This is the essence of the political changes we have promoted. This is the purpose of the government-opposition system.

For being attentive to criticism and for accepting supervision, we have the moral authority to demand responsibility, good sense, and [word indistinct]. Our duty is to call on the public opinion when it becomes a victim of manipulations [words indistinct] to distort the facts or to create situations that favor the dark interests of the country's enemies.

This is the case of the debate that has been taking place regarding alleged negotiations and agreements with drug

traffickers. The facts surrounding the kidnapping and release of those who were victims of this crime, including the son of the secretary general, have been clearly explained in the official communique released on 29 March.

The government, in the case of the kidnapping of Dr. Montoya's son, as on other unfortunate occasions, including the cases of Dr. Andres Pastrana and Dr. Alvaro Gomez, and even cases in which members of the Armed Forces have been kidnapped by subversives, has considered as appropriate and valuable the efforts made by those who performed humanitarian duties and showed good will for their release.

That is the way it is. One of the constitutional duties of the government is to seek solutions for the protection of the right to life. On all occasions, the spirit of those humanitarian duties does not commit the national government in any type of [words indistinct].

In addition, members of the National Security Council or of other organizations in charge of handling special public order situations, as appointed by the president, who is constitutionally responsible for the preservation of public peace, cannot be prevented from ascertaining information or from learning about the steps that have been taken by those performing humanitarian actions in trying to obtain the safe release of hostages.

I want to be very emphatic and clear on this point. The fact that some private citizens have undertaken humanitarian actions to liberate decent people does not commit the policies or actions of the national government. Our firm policy against organized crime and narcoterrorism remains unchanged. It has been a successful policy, and should not be modified. If the narcotraffickers decide to admit that there is no future for them, that they are defeated, and that they want to turn themselves in to the authorities, they can go ahead and do so. However, they should not expect any treatment different from that called for by the National Constitution and Colombian laws.

I wonder, and I invite all Colombians to ask themselves the same questions: Why is there an effort to create, at all costs and against all conclusive facts, the idea that the national government has (?yielded) in its policy, has given up its firm stand, and has made unacceptable accords with organized crime? Why is there such an effort to make it appear as if the state is willing to surrender morals and law? Why is there so much cruelty in trying to show that the authorities are yielding? I have no doubts that behind such a campaign there are dark interests. I have the duty of warning the nation and those responsible for guiding public opinion, who might be deceived, about this campaign.

The growth of narcotrafficking and the situation that led to it is the result of many years. From the beginning of this administration, we endeavored to control the neglect and permissiveness that narcoterrorism promoted, for it represented a very bad threat to Colombian democracy and society. It has not been easy. We have had to struggle against many obstacles, but we have made great achievements. By making great sacrifices, society is at long last making the laws of the Republic prevail over the interests of its enemies. Those who think that the struggle is for the purpose of obtaining recognition or improving the image of the country are wrong.

We want Colombians of the future to not have to suffer the frustration that the violence of narcotrafficking brings, depriving them of their hopes, as was the case with Luis Carlos Galan or Bernardo Jaramillo. It has been a necessary effort for the future, democracy, coexistence, and peace of all Colombians. All the progress we have made has been possible because Colombia has remained united. The country knows where the evil lies and who its promoters are. [Words indistinct] of seeing our country free from the scourge of violence and of narcotics trafficking has revived, in spite of the harsh sacrifices.

The commitment of the Colombians and their willingness to get ahead is what has given effectiveness and strength to the government's actions. In fact, national solidarity has supported the strength and the actions of the state. An ill-intended campaign of disinformation seeks to weaken the Colombians' confidence in the state. This campaign seeks to diminish the responsibility of the narcotics traffickers in those crimes while it is discussed in [words indistinct]. This campaign is designed to make Colombians lose confidence, give up their willingness to struggle, and accept that there is no other alternative but to coexist with evil or yield to evil plans. This campaign is aimed at leaving nothing sacred. No, we will not allow ourselves to be led calmly to that abyss.

Shortly I will travel to several European countries where I will strive to strengthen the international scope of the struggle against narcotics trafficking and to strengthen Colombia's political, cultural, and commercial ties with the EEC. I have been invited by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to present Colombia's stand on drug consumption at the inaugural session of the world meeting that she has organized on that subject.

Colombia feels that unless the demand for drugs is reduced, the narcotics trafficking problem will never be solved. Therefore, I have decided to participate in that event. On the other hand, I want to explain our national policy on defending the rights of Indians and the ecology conservation of the Amazon Basin that is of much world interest.

I have also been invited to address the plenary session of the European Parliament, and I will meet with the EEC authorities and President Francois Mitterrand and other French authorities. I will also meet with the prime minister of Belgium. The disussions will serve to promote the Colombian stand on subjects such as coffee, the export of flowers and fruits, and opening those markets for our products.

These efforts are of great interest for all Colombians. I will go to Europe to reaffirm the good name of Colombian democracy, to defend the courage of our people and of many of our leaders, and to praise the officials, judges,

policemen, soldiers, and officers who have courageously accepted the challenge of defending our institutions.

Fellow countrymen: In these moments when the country is suffering the consequences of a strategy of confusion, I call on you to use your common sense and remain calm so that the facts will be considered in their just dimensions. Let us not allow ourselves to be divided. There is an effort underway to lead us toward confrontation and despair that will only serve the enemies of the fatherland. United, we can defeat violence and terrorism. We must remain united so that we can continue effectively defending our democracy.

Good night and see you soon.

'Extraditables' Vow Violent Reprisal for Arrests

PA3103130490 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1214 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Communique issued by the Extraditables in Bogota on 30 March]

[Text] 1. On 28 March 1990, the Army and the National Police elite corps carried out military operations in the highlands of Envigado municipality.

2. In said operations, the elite corps arrested Colombian citizens Freddy Lopez Ospina and (Jose Cristanto Retavista Arzon), who remain missing.

3. In the past few months in Medellin, it has been the custom of the elite corps to arrest people and take them to the Carlos Holguin Police Academy, where they are tortured and executed by members of the Bogota DIJIN [Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations], who are in the capital of Antioquia.

4. We have denounced these events publicly on several occasions, but President Barco has responded in statements to the press that those members of the elite corps are defenders of democracy.

5. The commander of the elite corps in Antioquia, and Colonel Pelaez, chief of the Bogota DIJIN, are responsible for the murder of all our comrades and for the disappearance of the two aforementioned citizens.

6. In previous communiques, we publicly requested the creation of separate prisons and the permanent establishment of a branch of the Attorney General's Office in such prisons, but the government, an accomplice, has been silent with regard to our proposals.

7. If the citizens arrested in Envigado are not presented to their respective families, in reprisal we will place a bomb containing 5,000 kg of dynamite in one of the main residential neighborhoods of the Bogota oligarchy.

8. For each Colombian who is turned over to the United States, we will place a 5,000-kg bomb in the capital of the Republic.

9. We will execute progovernment judges, traitorous politicians, torturers, and the main members of the (Cano) family.

[Signed] The Extraditables, 30 March 1990

Escobar Reportedly Offers Cash Bounty for Police

PA3103140390 Paris AFP in Spanish 0519 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Bogota, 30 Mar (AFP)—Medellin drug cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar has reportedly offered to pay 2 million pesos (about $4,400) for each policeman assassinated in Bogota or Medellin, security organization spokesmen stated in this capital on 30 March.

They also reported that Escobar has ordered the mobilization of large amounts of dynamite and other explosives.

On 17 February, Escobar's cartel suspended the wave of terrorism which had shaken Colombia since August 1989 and proposed a surrender, recognizing the government's victory over the mafias.

However, President Virgilio Barco's (Liberal) government said it rejected the offer and insisted that the war against drug trafficking was still in effect.

A police spokesman, who preferred to remain anonymous, said on 30 March that a radio transmission between Escobar and his men had been intercepted. According to the communication, the "drug baron" would reportedly be willing to unleash a new phase of narcoterrorism.

"Pablo Escobar ordered the mobilization of explosives and weapons to renew terrorist activities against the government," the source added.

According to the communication intercepted by the police, Escobar ordered the transfer of a truck with 500 kg of ammonia dynamite from Medellin to Bogota. "Bogota might become the drug trafficking mafias' center of terrorist operations," the police spokesman stated.

The instructions issued by Escobar include the transfer of grenades, rifles, and dynamite to the capital. He also ordered the men who worked for Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha (El Mexicano), who was killed by police in northern Colombia on 15 December, to gather in Bogota.

Police Deny Detaining Medellin Cartel Members

PA0104214990 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1819 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (DPA)—The Colombian police today denied that members of the Medellin Cartel, Jose Retavista Garzon and Freddy Lopez Ospina, were captured by authorities on 29 March, as the drug trafficking

organization reported in a threatening communique released yesterday announcing the resumption of its terrorist attacks.

According to drug kingpin Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the two men were detained by members of the elite police, a force in charge of the antidrug struggle, which Escobar accused of perpetrating "outrages" against the drug traffickers' families.

The "Extraditables," criminals whose extradition has been demanded by U.S. authorities, have threatened to detonate a powerful, five-ton dynamite bomb, in residential areas of Bogota destroying a large portion of the capital, if the two men do not show up in a short time.

Police sources, however, have said that Retavista Garzon and Lopez Ospina have not been detained by any state security organization and their names have not been entered in any of the books used to register new prison arrivals.

The "Extraditables," headed by Escobar and brothers Jorge Luis, Fabio, and Juan David Ochoa, have also said that their armed commandos will "execute government magistrates, turncoat politicians, and prominent members of the Cano family."

On 17 December of 1986, mercenaries paid by the Medellin Cartel assassinated Guillermo Cano Isaza, director of the morning newspaper EL ESPECTADOR, which had given prominent coverage to the struggle against the drug trafficking mafia.

Early last September, a few days after President Virgilio Barco Vargas' government declared "war" on the cocaine cartels, a powerful bomb partially destroyed the newspaper installations in one of the first attacks that shook Colombia in the latter months of last year.

According to previous communiques, the new offensive by the drug traffickers is due to the government's refusal to engage in a peace dialogue, although reports have circulated accusing the Barco Vargas' administration of talking to delegates of the cartels.

The dispute arose when industrialists Mario Aristizabal and Santiago Londo White admitted to having served as mediators with the "Extraditables" to obtain the release of stock market broker Alvaro Diego Montoya, son of German Montoya Velez, secretary general of the Presidency, the closest official to Barco Vargas.

The negotiators and the government have said that the efforts carried out, culminating in the release of Montoya, did not compromise the government. The drug traffickers contend that the industrialists identified themselves as spokesmen for Barco Vargas, and that the president reportedly "violated the agreements" by persisting in the antidrug struggle.

ELN Claims Perez Martinez 'Removed' Not Executed

PA0104210890 Paris AFP in Spanish 1751 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (AFP)—According to revelations made on 1 April by the Castroite guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), Spanish priest Manuel Perez Martinez was not executed, but removed from ELN Command following an internal shuffle in its command echelons.

In an open letter to the Colombian media, the ELN denied that Perez was executed by his own comrades and announced that he was moved from commander to "political leader" of the organization.

"The comrade was elected to this position of responsibility by acclamation during our second congress, which was held in November of last year," says the letter, which was published by the Bogota morning newspaper EL TIEMPO.

Last week, the ELN denied, in a letter to various media, that it had executed Perez, 49, following a people's revolutionary trial in which he was allegedly found guilty of the murder of Colombian Bishop Jesus Emilio Jaramillo in 1989 and of transferring $1 million to the Basque separatist organization ETA [Basque Homeland and Liberty].

The ELN—one of the most active guerrilla groups in northern Colombia, near the Venezuelan border—has over 2,000 men on five fronts.

UP President on Internal Problems, May Elections

PA3003161590 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1250 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Report by Jairo Tarazola]

[Text] Beneath the song heard at the end of the plenary meeting of the Patriotic Union [UP] is a serious crisis being faced by the movement. The division, which its leaders have tried to minimize, was caused by the resignation of 12 members of the UP's National Coordinating Board and its Executive Committee, including its president, Diego Montana Cuellar.

[Begin recording] [Montana] There is definitely a crisis of structure. I have said this on at least three occasions. [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] But you remain within the UP?

[Montana] Of course, we remain within the UP. [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Montana] We are going to study this on 2 April. I cannot provide information on what has occurred [passage indistinct]. Almost all the members agree that the UP must be expanded. In its present state, the UP cannot fulfill its mission of achieving peace. On its own, it

cannot achieve peace. The Communist Party alone cannot achieve peace. We need the cooperation of other forces to help us save Colombia from the terrible, genocidal situation that it is experiencing. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

UP President Diego Montana Cuellar also said that under the present circumstances, it is impossible to resume the electoral debate, although he said that if the political situation improves, it would be possible to field a candidate between now and 27 May, if the following conditions are met:

[Begin Montana Cuellar recording, in progress]... The appointment of a civilian of democratic persuasion in the Defense Ministry.

2. The initiation of a real purging process within the Armed Forces and the dissolution of paramilitary groups.

3. The achievement of a bilateral cease-fire between the insurgent groups and the Armed Forces.

4. Initiation of a negotiation process with the armed movements under international supervision.

5. Lifting of the state of siege.

6. Equal access to the media for all political forces.

7. Creation of a special commission to investigate and identify the masterminds of Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa's murder followed by their arrest and punishment for the good of the country.

Only the implementation of these measures, only under these conditions, could the UP return to the presidential contest. Until then, it will refrain from posting a new candidate or from endorsing any of the existing ones. [end recording]

Many people believe it would be impossible for the government to meet these conditions. Therefore, the UP will neither participate in, nor present a candidate for the May elections.

Agrees to Dissolve, Form New Party

PA0204022090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0128 GMT 2 Apr 90

[Text] Bogota, 1 Apr (EFE)—Diego Montana Cuellar, president of the left-wing Patriotic Union tonight reported that the UP has agreed to disolve, separate from the Communist Party, and create a new Social Democratic political party along with the 19 April Movement (M-19) and three other left-wing forces.

Montana Cuellar announced during the "Noticias Uno" television newscast that the agreement was reached on Sunday 1 April during a meeting attended by 30 delegates from the UP, M-19, and the movements "Democratic Socialism," "United Colombia," and "Popular Front."

A UP spokesman confirmed this report to EFE and announced that on 2 April, the new party will search for a name and appoint its presidential candidate for the upcoming 27 May elections.

9th Brigade Commander Discusses Guerilla Clashes

PA0204030590 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with Colonel Bernardo Urbina Sanchez, commander of the National Army's 9th Brigade in Huila Department, by station announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] As previously reported, nine guerrillas were killed in Huila Department during clashes with the Armed Forces. We have contacted Col. Bernardo Urbina Sanchez, commander of the Army's 9th Brigade, based in Neiva. Good morning, Colonel.

[Urbina] Good morning, Juan. How are you?

[Announcer] Very well, Colonel. Thank you. How many guerrillas were killed in clashes with regular Army troops? Nine or 11?

[Urbina] So far we have found nine. The squad may have suffered more casualties because the operation has been underway since 17 March and we have had several clashes. We found the bodies in areas where we clashed with them over the weekend.

[Announcer] Which guerrilla groups or group are you fighting against in that part of the country, Col. Urbina?

[Urbina] We are fighting against FARC's [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] 17th squad, which had been harassing the civilian population in the region through extortion, kidnapping, and by applying to them the cattle and family vaccine [as heard], as they describe it. For approximately the past year and a half, this squad has been harassing area residents with these crimes.

[Announcer] Do you believe, Colonel, that these casualties have decimated the squad or will it be necessary for the Army to continue to pursue them?

[Urbina] We must continue to pursue them because I believe there are approximately 40 individuals in the squad.

[Announcer] Apart from the nine bodies you said you located following the clashes, has the Brigade detained any of the guerrillas?

[Urbina] No sir, we have no detainees. The Army troops have suffered one casualty.

[Announcer] By the way, Colonel, speaking about the troops, what happened to the helicopter?

[Urbina] The helicopter was being used to support this operation and transport personnel. As a landing was attempted, the helicopter was hit by a lateral wind and in the effort to evade a group of trees, it crashed into

another group of trees and (?spun). Injuries only resulted because the helicopter was about to land.

[Announcer] How many people were injured in the accident?

[Urbina] Only one noncommissioned officer was seriously injured and four soldiers suffered bruises.

[Announcer] Colonel, what do you think of what the FARC is doing on its 17th front? While it has issued a letter calling for dialogue, peace, and a truce, it continues to intimidate and extort area residents.

[Urbina] This is because on a nationwide level, FARC is demanding that each front, each squad, attain a certain amount of money. In this area, the only way they can get this money—since there is no drug trafficking—is through kidnapping and extortion. This is why they have been affecting residents in the general area of [name indistinct].

[Announcer] Colonel, the operation began on 17 March, approximately 15 days ago. Will it continue?

[Urbina] Yes sir. We will continue the operation as long as the guerrilla redoubt remains in this area.

[Announcer] Col. Urbina, has it been proven that this is a nationwide order from the FARC secretariat to collect funds from all of its fronts?

[Urbina] Yes, sir. A few days ago, during a clash in Colombia Municipality, we even found the very documents that were published a month to a month and a half ago in EL ESPECTADOR and EL TIEMPO, and broadcast over Radio Cadena Nacional. FARC decided to assign a quota to each of its fronts at mid-year 1989. This is what the FARC squads are doing now, especially in Huila Department.

[Announcer] Colonel, could you state the exact areas where the Army is pursuing the FARC squad?

[Urbina] Yes, sir. It is the (?Villa Larga) Corregimiento, Neiva Municipality, approximately 40 km from Caqueta Department.

[Announcer] Colonel, our Radio Cadena Nacional colleagues in Neiva wish to express a concern. Speak Neiva.

[Reporter] Yes, Juan. Colonel, this seems to be the largest offensive against FARC's 17th front in this part of the country.

[Colonel] Yes, in fact it is the largest in this region, but we will continue throughout the deparment, in the southern, northern, and central areas. This operation is being carried out by one battalion.

[Announcer] Colonel, thank you very much for your information. You have been very kind.

[Urbina] Very well, sir.

[Announcer] Col. Bernardo Urbina Sanchez, commander of the National Army's 9th Brigade in Huila Department.

Ecuador

Intellectuals Express Solidarity With Cuba

PA3103022590 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2323 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] A group of Ecuadoran intellectuals have expressed solidarity with the Cuban people for the aggression represented by the TV Marti broadcasts. Dr. Juan Isaac Lobato, a member of the World Peace Committee, has said that the Cuban peoples' rights are being violated and that the station's broadcasts must stop.

[Begin Lobato recording] We are familiar with the situation caused by the U.S. policy, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean. We are familiar with the measures that have been taken, particularly against Cuba, for no reason whatever. No one is correct in assuming that only his point of view is right or that he alone knows the truth and therefore others must accept his political, economic, and social views. No one has the right to think that he can make others yield by undertaking measures which are often wrong. People have a right to self-determination. They must decide what is best for them. [end recording]

Peru

Armed Forces To Guarantee Elections in Ayacucho

PY3103153090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0139 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Ayacucho, (Peru), 30 Mar (EFE)—Admiral Alfonso Panizzo, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Command (CCFA), today reaffirmed that the 8 April general elections will be carried out as scheduled in the Andean Province of Ayacucho, 576 km southeast of Lima. Asked whether the Maoist Shining Path terrorist organization may prevent the elections through terrorist attacks, Panizzo pointed out that "the elections will be guaranteed by the Armed Forces." Panizzo is also the Peru's naval war commander.

Panizzo, who was accompanied by a high-ranking officer of the joint command, spent two hours in Ayacucho where he met with General Petronio Fernandez, chief of the political-military command. The meeting was held in an Army garrison under strict security. After meeting with Alfredo Huamani, president of the departmental election court, Panizzo said that "he was very sure" that the general elections in Ayacucho "will be normal."

The Shining Path terrorists have threatened to kill those who vote in Ayacucho. They earlier threatened to kill voters during the 12 November municipal elections.

Military Takes Control of Lima and Callao

PY0104205090 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1832 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 1 Apr (AFP)—The Peruvian Armed Forces today took full control of Lima and the neighboring port of Callao—which together have some 8 million residents—to prevent subversive attacks aimed at preventing the general elections slated for Sunday, 8 April.

More than 5,000 Army, Navy, and Air Force troops have joined some 20,000 policemen who are already on "red alert" and have begun continuous patrolling of downtown streets, districts, and suburbs of Lima. This patrolling will continue until two days after the elections. Meanwhile, fresh troops have been sent to the emergency zones to guarantee the elections and curb subversive activities.

Admiral Alfonso Panizo, chief of the joint services command, who is stationed in Ayacucho (the "armed struggle" stronghold in the southeastern Andean region), said yesterday that the elections are guaranteed in that region and all over the country. "The Peruvians must not fear doing their civic duty and voting in the elections," he said.

Writer Mario Vargas Llosa, presidential candidate of the Democratic Front (Fredemo) was attacked on the night of 31 March by an unknown person who hit him on the head with a stick when Vargas Llosa arrived at the airport in Trujillo, La Libertad Department, 540 km north of Lima. Trujillo is the stronghold of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance [APRA].

Vargas Llosa arrived in Trujillo from Huancayo—315 km east of Lima—where a rally he presided over was disturbed by an inconsequential explosion of dynamite. Over the last few days Vargas Llosa's campaign tour has also been disturbed by actions staged by APRA supporters in Cusco Department, 1,300 km southeast of Lima. However, those actions against the writer were not serious, according to the police.

The National Election Board (JNE) reported yesterday that it has asked National Prosecutor General Manuel Catacora to open investigations into charges made by the Lima daily EXPRESO that "forged ballots and electoral lists were being printed by the Peruvian Telephone Company." The JNE also agreed to prevent "actions that could mar the elections or awaken distrust in them," according to a JNE communique.

On 31 March, Enrique Elias Laroza, a Fredemo spokesman, called for a curfew prior to the elections "in view of the ineptitude and inability shown by the government in protecting the citizens."

With barely six days to go before the elections, the Lima Electoral Registry today reported that over 6,000 voters have not picked up their voters' cards. These cards are duplicates that had been issued at the request of the citizens because their originals were either lost or damaged.

Terrorist Attacks Increase as Elections Approach

PY0204035490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0919 GMT 1 Apr 90

[Text] Lima, 1 Apr (EFE)—The Peruvian electoral campaign today entered its final stretch, with only one week to go in the most disputed and dangerous campaign in the history of that Andean country, primarily because of terrorist threats.

The spreading wave of terrorism aimed at preventing the elections, forced President Alan Garcia's administration to take drastic security measures to protect the nearly 3,500 candidates [passage indistinct] are deployed, especially in areas under state of emergency and where the activities of Shining Path's terrorist gangs are more widespread, such as Lima and the departments of Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurimac, and Junin.

The government has appointed four members of the security forces to protect each candidate and has taken out life insurance on almost 250,000 people, who have been selected by lottery, to work at over 52,000 polling stations. In Lima alone, hundreds of members of polling station teams have asked to be relieved of this duty, petitions which for the most part have been refused by the electoral court.

In Lima, the main obstacle to normal elections on 8 April could be the strike of private bus owners who are afraid of terrorist reprisals. The "mini-bus-owners" (individual owners of urban buses) have asked that four policemen be assigned to each bus, a request that Departmental Prefect (Governor) Jacobo Mishkin has deemed "impossible."

"If there is no transportation, the people will walk," President Alan Garcia has said, reaffirming his "absolute confidence" that the Peruvian people will vote en masse—despite the terrorist threats—to "strengthen democracy," recovered in 1980 after 12 years of military governments. President Alan Garcia, National Election Board President Carlos Castaneda, and the candidates have been urging the nearly 10 million voters to comply with their constitutional duty by casting their votes.

The government claims that a large turnout will amount to "the most effective rejection of subversion" and that it will "strengthen democracy" for Peru's almost 22 million inhabitants.

Of the nine presidential candidates, four have good chances, although only the candidate of the center-right, Mario Vargas Llosa, is the clear-cut favorite. He will get an estimated 45 percent of the votes, according to latest surveys.

According to Peruvian law, if Vargas Llosa does not get an absolute majority he will have to participate in a runoff election with the second-place candidate. Since it is quite certain that Vargas Llosa, the presidential candidate of the Democratic Front (Fredemo), will win the first round, the question now is who will be his rival for the Presidency in the second round. According to the

surveys, the candidates with the best chance are Luis Alva Castro of the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA), with 19 percent of the votes; Alfonso Barrantes Lingan of the Socialist Left (IS), with 12 percent; and Henry Pease of the communist left wing coalition United Left (IU), with eight percent.

During the last five days of their campaigns the candidates will step up their trips to various points of the country trying to gain the votes of a large undecided sector of the population. According to the surveys, this sector represents between 18 and 20 percent of the votes.

Meanwhile terrorists continue on their path of death and destruction. In the last 24 hours the Shining Path has murdered two state officials of the [words indistinct] on a road linking Chavin and Huari, two towns in Ancash Department. In Huaraz, the capital of Ancash Department, the terrorists set fire to the offices of the local development corporation but injured no one. One person died when an ore train was derailed near Oroya, a key mining town in the Peruvian central jungle area, where an electoral registration office is located. Seven private bank branches were also attacked and seriously damaged in Lima. In Barranca, a small village 180 km from Lima, terrorists bombed a radio station and a drugstore, both of them belonging to Santiago Jao, a Fredemo candidate for deputy.

Terrorist Attacks Continue To Cut Power Supply

PY3003145490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2006 GMT 29 mar 90

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (EFE)—The state-owned Electro Peru company today reported that alleged Shining Path terrorists have bombed seven high-tension electrical towers over the past 24 hours. The company also expressed its concern over the situation created by the supply of electricity. Electro Peru estimates that the lack of power stemming from terrorist attacks, and the drought affecting the northern sector of Lima Department, will cause a shortage of 500 megawatts nationwide until late in 1990.

There have been successive power outages in Lima since November 1989 when municipal elections were held. Since then, the terrorists have knocked down 150 high-tension pylons despite the fact that 800 pylons considered as "strategic" have been mined. As a result of this situation one terrorist died and five others were injured, among them a woman who suffered serious leg injuries and was arrested by the police since she was unable to escape.

Authorities have reported that the power supply was reduced because the drought affecting large areas of Peru have reduced the water level in the hydroelectric dam reservoirs. There are daily power cuts in some sectors of Lima due to this situation and they especially affect the factories, 70 percent of which are in the capital.

There is also a serious shortage of drinking water in Lima. Last night the state-owned Sedapal company asked Lima residents to avoid the excessive use of water. Dwellers from shantytowns, who have no direct water supply, are forced to buy water from tankers at very high prices due to the serious water shortage. The Rimac River, which supplies 60 percent of Lima's water, is practically dry; artesian wells supply the other 40 percent of Lima's water supply.

Uruguay

General Strike Marks Protest Against Measures

PY3003185490 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The general partial strike decreed by the PIT-CNT [Inter-Union Workers Plenum-National Convention of Workers] was called at noon today to protest the possible approval of the fiscal adjustment plan.

Members of several unions gathered near the Congress building. The CUTCSA [Uruguayan Bus Company, Inc.] transportation labor union decided to strike until 1700 and transportation cooperatives will strike until 1500. The ONDA [National Bus Organization] has just ended its stoppage.

In the teaching sector, the UTU [Uruguayan Technical University] professors and public elementary and high school teachers will not work all day.

The Uruguayan bank-employee association has announced it will observe the strike from 1500 to 1800, causing the banks to close 30 minutes early.

The private health sector has just ended the strike, while the public health sector will strike from 1500 to 1800.

Workers in the steel and related sectors of the Industry and Energy Ministry and of the SUNCA [National United Trade Union of Construction and Related Workers] decided to freeze their activities for 24 hours.

The United Trade Union of the National Administration for Ports—SUANP—will stop work for the final two hours of each shift, while longshoremen will not work at all.

The workers of the UTE [State Electric Power and Telephone] and those of the ANCAP [National Administration of Fuel, Alcohol, and Portland Cement] labor federations will stop work for the final two hours of each shift.

Textile workers will stop from 1500 to 1800, while FOECI [Federation of Commercial and Industrial Workers] workers joined the strike at noon.

The Tanners' Union has already joined the strike, while the Leather Workers Union will not work all day long. Municipal workers are now ending their stoppage.

The federation of the OSE [State Board of Sanitation] workers decided to strike for three hours per shift, while chemical industry workers will strike until 0600 tomorrow.

Fiscal Readjustment Law Approved, Takes Effect

PY3103222490 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] The executive branch has promulgated the fiscal readjustment law, increasing the contributions of workers and employers, after Congress approved the bill. The new law takes effect retroactively as of 1 March 1990. The bill was approved at 0730 this morning after a long session at the Chamber of Deputies that began at 0930 yesterday morning. According to government sources, the law—number 16107—will go into effect immediately. It was signed by Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle, Economy and Finance Minister Enrique Braga, and Labor and Social Security Minister Carlos Cat.

Alvaro Alfonso, our correspondent at the Congress building, will now report the details of the almost 20-hour-long session of debates:

[Begin recording] For 22 hours the Chamber of Deputies discussed the bill, finally approving it. All kinds of incidents occurred during the debate: a bomb threat; a small fire in the wee hours of the morning; a dispute between two deputies, which we have already reported and which might have ended in blows; and finally, the approval of the bill at 0736.

It must be pointed out that each deputy voted for the bill independently. Sixty-three deputies voted in favor and 33 against, while three were not on the floor. [words indistinct] they were: Deputy Hector Lezcano of the New Sector, Deputy Ramon Legnani of the Broad Front, and Sergio Coronel of the Rocha Movement of Cerro Largo Department. They were not on the floor and did not attend the session.

Every congressperson from the National Party and the Colorado Party voted on the law except for five members of List 94 and Deputy Heber Pinto, who was elected by and later left the Colorado-Batlle Union. In general, the members of List 94 were not voting, not even for Articles 12 and 18.

At 1607 yesterday someone called the chamber to report that a bomb had been planted in the room. The session had already been suspended for five minutes as a result of a dispute between Machinena and Leon Lev. Some members of the public who were attending the session ended up applauding the dispute and were consequently ordered to leave the chamber by Deputy Hector Sturla, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies. Sturla reentered the room and asked for five more minutes to meet in his office with bloc leaders and other members, to report the bomb threat.

Fire fighters and police officers posted at the chamber searched the floor in vain. Some eight fire fighters remained in the room until the session ended. [end recording]

U.S. Arms Shipment Seized at Carrasco Airport

PY3103135090 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] In a lightning operation a few hours ago, the police seized a large shipment of handguns, machine guns, and grenades. The shipment, which came from the United States, arrived in our country by airplane. An individual picked up the [words indistinct] patrol department personnel as the individual was leaving our airport's main terminal by car.

Patrol department personnel had received confidential information that high-caliber weapons would arrive yesterday afternoon from the United States at Carrasco International Airport in a large package labeled "computers." The police (?carried out) a close surveillance [words indistinct] and shortly after they noticed [words indistinct] who, after the pertinent paperwork, picked up the shipment and (?loaded it) in his car. As the individual was leaving the terminal, [words indistinct] the vehicle. [Words indistinct], it contained [word indistinct] and high-caliber revolvers, machine guns, [words indistinct] silencer, and two (?fragmentation) grenades.

Venezuela

El Salvador's Cristiani Makes Official Visit

'Conditions Exist' for FMLN Peace Accord

PA2903233990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2208 GMT 29 Mar 90

[Text] Caracas, 29 Mar (EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said on a Venezuelan television program today that the best conditions exist to seek a peace agreement in his country through political means.

Cristiani, who arrived in Venezuela on 28 March for a three-day official visit, said the latest actions dealing with peace talks with the guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and the mediation of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar are directed at achieving peace in El Salvador.

Nevertheless, the Salvadoran president said no date or place has yet been agreed upon to resume the dialogue with the guerrillas.

Cristiani stated that agreement on some details is being sought through the good offices of Perez de Cuellar so as to begin the process of negotiation with the guerrillas.

Concerning the human rights situation in El Salvador, he acknowledged that there has been an increase in their violation and that there are several groups, which he did not identify, that violate those rights.

Cristiani attributed those abuses to the war imposed by the FMLN in El Salvador which produces such violence. The Salvadoran president met today with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, with whom he analyzed the Salvadoran political situation and possible economic, trade, and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Notes Amnesty Offer After Meeting

PA3103044290 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0009 GMT 31 Mar 90

[Text] Venezuelan and Salvadoran Presidents Carlos Andres Perez and Alfredo Cristiani today signed the 11th program of economic cooperation between the the Venezuelan Investment Fund and the Salvadoran Central Reserve Bank.

The agreement includes the import of Venezuelan goods, services, and raw materials and the transfer of monetary deposits to the Salvadoran bank, which will be allocated for the financing of investment programs and projects.

The presidents also signed a memorandum, which lays the groundwork for signing a cooperation and friendship agreement as well as for signing a preinvestment program accord aimed at transferring funds that are needed by El Salvador for the implementation of its investment plan. This program could be expanded by the increase of the oil supply from 14,000 to 18,000 barrels per day, contingent upon Mexican approval. Venezuela has already agreed to increase its oil supply to El Salvador.

After signing the agreement, Perez and Cristiani held a news conference and said they were pleased with the signing of the documents. They talked about the Salvadoran situation and expressed their optimism about the upcoming peace negotiations with the guerrillas. This was one of the topics discussed by the presidents.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] Amnesty should be a fundamental part of a reconciliation agreement in El Salvador because we are sure that most of the violence committed by all sides in El Salvador is a result of the conflict. Once the conflict disappears, many of the other problems will disappear as well.

[Perez] This clearly tells me that there is a powerful political commitment by all sides in the Salvadoran conflict to reach, through dialogue, a solution to this dramatic and absurd episode that is hurting this brother country of Central America. [end recording]

Prsident Cristiani had other important activities on the last day of his Venezuelan visit. In the morning, he met with Antonio Rios, CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] president; Eduardo Fernandez, COPEI [Social Christian Party] secretary general; and former Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera.

He later went to congress where he was received by the board of directors of the Venezuelan Parliament and where he talked about the importance of Venezuela's economic support for his country.

[Begin Congress President David Morales Bello recording] I want to express the feelings and commitment of the Venezuelan congressmen in telling you that as soon as Congress receives these agreements, we will show our good will so that the agreements can be implemented as soon as possible and El Salvador can quickly receive what we understand to be another expression of our sense of continental fraternity.

President Cristiani ended his activities in Venezuela with a dinner hosted by President Carlos Andres Perez, who awarded the Salvadoran president the national order of Jose Matias Delgado.

President Cristiani is scheduled to return to his country on 31 March at 0800.

Lists 'Initial' Guarantees for FMLN

PA3103060390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2139 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] Caracas, 30 Mar (AFP)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani offered in Caracas today a "broad amnesty" for the guerrillas of the FMLN, as the "first guarantee" for the peace dialogue that the government and the FMLN will hold in Geneva on 4 April.

At a news conference at 1800 GMT, Cristiani did not specify the date nor the location of the dialogue "that is still being discussed with the mediation of the United Nations.

In New York, a UN spokesman announced the date of the dialogue, and Salvadoran Government representative Ricardo Castaneda did not rule out the possibility that Cristiani would attend the important meeting.

On 30 March, the third day of his official visit to Venezuela, Cristiani and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez signed a joint declaration and a memorandum of understanding to achieve an overall bilateral cooperation agreement within three months.

In a joint news conference with Perez, Cristiani said that "in order to make the FMLN's incorporation into the Salvadoran democratic process easier, quicker, and more feasible," he will offer the following initial guarantees:

Amnesty: "The late President Napoleon Duarte had already issued an amnesty but some cases were not included in it, and such cases would now be addressed. We will have to forget the illegal actions committed by the FMLN."

Incorporation of the FMLN as a political force: "They have not yet stated whether they want to become a political party, but we are willing to legalize such a party so they can participate in the electoral processes that have been held in the country during the past 8 years."

Incorporation as members of society: "As is established in the Esquipulas plan for the demobilization of both the Nicaraguan Resistance and the FMLN, mechanisms to help their incorporation would be established, providing them with a plot of land so they can rejoin the country's normal and peaceful life."

Nevertheless, Cristiani rejected guerrilla demands to "democratize the Army and make it respectful of human rights."

Cristiani added, "The professionalization of the Armed Forces is an ongoing process. It is not something we are going to begin now. A state of law has been established in El Salvador, even though there are still actions that will have to be counteracted."

"We believe there have been abuses, but the abuses by the FMLN have been as atrocious or worse. We think such abuses are due to the conflict. That is why the conflict should end. El Salvador does not need an army the size that has been maintained because of the conflict," Cristiani said.

Cristiani also rebuffed statements attributed to Jose Maria Tojeiras, the Jesuit's provincial leader, that the order to kill the six Jesuit clergymen in November "came from the Army's top command." "We cannot take the law in our hands, and so we are putting our faith in the serious and professional investigation conducted by the U.S., the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United Kingdom's Scotland Yard, and the Spanish police. The statements attributed to Father Tojeiras are speculation," Cristiani noted.

Recapping his stance on the peace talks with the guerrillas, Cristiani said: "No substantial progress has been made in the previous contacts in February and March through UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The international climate is favorable to a solution to the conflict through dialogue and understanding. I am optimistic, although not excessively so, because we are dealing with a number of internal and external factors in an effort to achieve peace for the Salvadoran people," Cristiani said.

Morever, Carlos Andres Perez said he "fully" concurred with Cristiani's views, and recalling that a few days ago he met with FMLN commanders and leaders of the Salvadoran political opposition, he said "I can say that I am excessively optimistic," on the subject of peace.

Guyana

Finance Minister To Resume IMF Negotiations

FL3003221590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1923 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Report by Courtney Gibson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 30, CANA—Guyana and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will next week restart stalled negotiations and Finance Minister Carl Greenidge is hoping that they can conclude a credit facility to help revive the flagging economy.

He also announced Friday [30 March] that the government is hoping to conclude structural adjustment credit agreements shortly with the World Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

Greenidge told newsmen an IMF team is expected here by mid-next week and the government hopes to conclude a standby agreement and an agreement for an enhanced structural adjustment facility (ESAF) with the fund as early as next month.

Analysts say that Guyana is seeking about 150 million [U.S.] dollars in credits from the IMF. Negotiations with the Fund were put to hold late last year after the Canada-led Guyana support group failed to raise the bridging finance to help Guyana clear its approximately 200 million US dollars in arrears to multilateral institutions, including the Fund, the World Bank and the CDB.

Discussions were complicated by the poor performance of the Guyana economy which declined by five percent last year, failing to meet most of the production targets set out in a "pre-condition" arrangement with the Fund.

"In the case of the World Bank and the IMF, (the agreements) will enable those two entities to disburse after the arrears to them have been cleared. Those disbursements will not be more than the amounts we pay them," he said.

He also stressed that the money from the World Bank and the IMF will not be "new money available to us to spend. It is not new money. Only part of the money from the CDB will be new money," Greenidge added.

The finance minister noted that while in some instances, as is the case with West Germany, the flow of bilateral assistance is conditional upon the signing of an agreement with the IMF, the government expects this flow to continue from some countries as has been the case with Canada.

The government had hoped to conclude an agreement with the IMF for 1990 by December 31, 1989. According to Greenidge that agreement would have "triggered clearance" of Guyana's pre-March, 1989 arrears with the IMF, the World Bank and the CDB totalling about US180 million dollars.

However, following the post-1989 budget strikes in the bauxite and sugar industries, new areas were accumulated and the government was "unable to complete the negotiations ... Partly because of uncertainty over the future of the support group and its programme," Greenidge explained.

But he added: "The support group meeting of March, 1990, has re-opened the door to the next phase."

Greenidge told newsmen the objective of the upcoming negotiations with the Fund will be to set targets which will form the basis for assessing the country's performance in keeping with the country's policy framework paper submitted to the Fund.

Asked about speculation that the 1990 budget he presented Wednesday [28 March] is intended to serve merely as an interim one, Greenidge contended that that was mere "guessing." He said that while the upcoming negotiations with the IMF will set targets, there are several options which could preclude the need for the government to return to the National Assembly with another budget.

Suriname

Jungle Commando Will Only Negotiate Abroad

FL3003215390 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 30 Mar 90

[Text] The Jungle Commando will no longer take part in peace discussions in Paramaribo because the group fears for its safety in the capital. This is stated in today's edition of DE WARE TIJD newspaper. The group, led by Ronnie Brunswijk, says it will take part in the peace discussions but these must take place in foreign countries. According to the newspaper, this position was taken in a meeting which Brunswijk had with his men.

The Jungle Commando delegation which took part in the discussions in Paramaribo returned to Moengo on Wednesday last [28 March] following the release of 11 members of the delegation who had earlier been arrested. The 11 men, including Brunswijk, were arrested by the military police on Monday last [26 March] in connection with the 1,000 kg cocaine find in the Moengo area. Later, however, the judicial authorities ordered the release of the men.

During the arrest of the Jungle Commando members, two bodyguards of Brunswijk were killed. The Jungle Commando is now of the opinion that they will be no longer safe in Paramaribo and as such will not take part in any further peace discussions in the capital.